

SPECIAL MEETING UNION PARISH POLICE JURY

**Farmerville, Louisiana
December 28th, 2023**

The Union Parish Police Jury met this date in special session in the Police Jury meeting room, Courthouse Annex, Farmerville, Louisiana with the following present: Curtis Moses, Nathan Pilgreen, DeWayne Ramsey, Ben Bridges, L.W. Nolan, Brenda Abercrombie and A.J. Ford, Jr. Absent: Johnny Buckley and Ceis Nyegaard. Also present was James Buckley, Assistant District Attorney. The President called the session to order and welcomed all guests. Mr. Bridges offered the invocation and Mr. Moses led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

President Abercrombie welcomed everyone to the meeting. President Abercrombie asked if anyone in the audience would like to register for public comment. At this time the public was given the opportunity to comment on any item shown on the agenda.

Motion Mr. Nolan, seconded by Mr. Ford and declared adopted by unanimous vote of the Jury to approve the agenda as written.

Motion Mr. Moses, seconded by Mr. Ford to amend the 2023 budgets as presented below. Motion carried unanimously. The 2023 revised final budgets are:

GENERAL FUND

Beginning Fund Balance	1,386,587.00
Revenues and Other Sources	2,766,853.00
Expenses and Other Uses	-2,518,695.00
Ending Fund Balance	1,634,745.00

ROAD MAINTENANCE

Beginning Fund Balance	963,245.00
Revenues and Other Sources	3,319,819.00
Expenses and Other Uses	-3,148,154.00
Ending Fund Balance	1,134,910.00

ROAD CONSTRUCTION

Beginning Fund Balance	1,399,486.00
Revenues and Other Sources	1,790,300.00
Expenses and Other Uses	-1,434,242.00
Ending Fund Balance	1,755,544.00

LIBRARY

Beginning Fund Balance	1,405,886.00
Revenues and Other Sources	537,646.00
Expenses and Other Uses	-606,375.00
Ending Fund Balance	1,337,157.00

UNEMPLOYMENT

Beginning Fund Balance	1,034.00
Revenues and Other Sources	2,223.00
Expenses and Other Uses	-2,223.00
Ending Fund Balance	1,034.00

AIRPORT

Beginning Fund Balance	1,774.00
Revenues and Other Sources	67,925.00
Expenses and Other Uses	-65,560.00
Ending Fund Balance	4,139.00

OFF-DUTY OFFICER WITNESS FEES

Beginning Fund Balance	23,470.00
Revenues and Other Sources	4,000.00
Expenses and Other Uses	-1,250.00
Ending Fund Balance	26,220.00

DETENTION CENTER

Beginning Fund Balance	906,305.00
Revenues and Other Sources	3,333,350.00
Expenses and Other Uses	-3,187,513.00
Ending Fund Balance	1,052,142.00

HEALTH UNIT

Beginning Fund Balance	451,776.00
Revenues and Other Sources	414,224.00
Expenses and Other Uses	-425,600.00
Ending Fund Balance	440,400.00

SALES TAX - LANDFILL

Beginning Fund Balance	16,270,995.00
Revenues and Other Sources	6,673,319.00
Expenses and Other Uses	-7,456,703.00
Ending Fund Balance	15,487,611.00

UNION PARISH LITTER COURT

Beginning Fund Balance	7,023.00
Revenues and Other Sources	15,550.00
Expenses and Other Uses	-13,188.00
Ending Fund Balance	9,385.00

UNION PARISH COMM DIST

Beginning Fund Balance	301,039.00
Revenues and Other Sources	396,995.00
Expenses and Other Uses	-384,172.00
Ending Fund Balance	313,862.00

COLLECTIONS - SALES TAX

Beginning Fund Balance	26,006.00
Revenues and Other Sources	1,050,000.00
Expenses and Other Uses	-1,000,888.00
Ending Fund Balance	75,118.00

HUD SECTION 8

Beginning Fund Balance	108,279.00
Revenues and Other Sources	726,525.00
Expenses and Other Uses	-713,508.00
Ending Fund Balance	121,296.00

HOMELAND SECURITY

Beginning Fund Balance	58.10
Revenues and Other Sources	71,200.00
Expenses and Other Uses	-71,200.00
Ending Fund Balance	58.10

ARPA

Beginning Fund Balance	3,330,180.00
Revenues and Other Sources	145,049.00
Expenses and Other Uses	-2,855,983.00
Ending Fund Balance	619,246.00

Motion Mr. Ford, seconded by Mr. Moses to open a public hearing on the 2024 budgets. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the jury. President Abercrombie declared a public hearing in session to discuss the 2024 budgets. In accordance with La R.S.39:1306 a notice had appeared in the official journal stating that the budget was available for public inspection. There have been no requests from the public to review the budget. All statutory requirements have been met. President Abercrombie asked if there were any comments from the public. There were no comments. Motion Mr. Ramsey, seconded by Mr. Ford to close the public hearing. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the jury.

A lengthy discussion was held regarding the 2024 budget. The Secretary/Treasurer reported that a line item for Homeland Security was added in the General fund for an equipment purchase of approximately \$60,000. The Tipping fees from the Landfill will cover the cost of the equipment.

Motion Mr. Moses, seconded by Mr. Ramsey to adopt the 2024 budgets as presented below. Motion carried with the following Roll Call Vote:

MEMBERS:	YEAS:	NAYS:	ABSENT:	ABSTAINING:
Curtis Moses	x			
Nathan Pilgreen		x		
Dewayne Ramsey	x			
Johnny Buckley			x	
Ben Bridges		x		
Ceis Nyegaard			x	
L.W. Nolan		x		
Brenda Abercrombie	x			
Andrew J. Ford, Jr.	x			

Motion carried with a vote of 4 YEAS, 3 NAYS and 2 ABSENT.

GENERAL FUND

Beginning Fund Balance	2,195,772.00
Revenues and Other Sources	3,967,800.00
Expenses and Other Uses	-3,692,162.00
Ending Fund Balance	2,471,410.00

ROAD MAINTENANCE

Beginning Fund Balance	1,168,102.00
Revenues and Other Sources	3,019,105.00
Expenses and Other Uses	-2,957,350.00
Ending Fund Balance	1,229,857.00

ROAD CONSTRUCTION

Beginning Fund Balance	1,778,970.00
Revenues and Other Sources	897,500.00
Expenses and Other Uses	-840,000.00

Ending Fund Balance	1,836,470.00
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LIBRARY

Beginning Fund Balance	897,807.00
Revenues and Other Sources	508,600.00
Expenses and Other Uses	-684,560.00
Ending Fund Balance	721,847.00

UNEMPLOYMENT

Beginning Fund Balance	1,034.00
Revenues and Other Sources	16,000.00
Expenses and Other Uses	-10,000.00
Ending Fund Balance	7,034.00

AIRPORT

Beginning Fund Balance	4,336.00
Revenues and Other Sources	62,000.00
Expenses and Other Uses	-62,900.00
Ending Fund Balance	3,436.00

OFF-DUTY OFFICER WITNESS FEES

Beginning Fund Balance	26,206.00
Revenues and Other Sources	4,500.00
Expenses and Other Uses	-1,500.00
Ending Fund Balance	29,206.00

DETENTION CENTER

Beginning Fund Balance	1,054,869.00
Revenues and Other Sources	3,539,650.00
Expenses and Other Uses	-3,761,045.00
Ending Fund Balance	833,474.00

HEALTH UNIT

Beginning Fund Balance	467,561.00
Revenues and Other Sources	118,000.00
Expenses and Other Uses	-444,675.00
Ending Fund Balance	140,886.00

SALES TAX - LANDFILL

Beginning Fund Balance	15,388,315.00
Revenues and Other Sources	6,023,000.00
Expenses and Other Uses	-7,029,275.00
Ending Fund Balance	14,382,040.00

UNION PARISH LITTER COURT

Beginning Fund Balance	9,377.00
Revenues and Other Sources	20,000.00
Expenses and Other Uses	-15,500.00
Ending Fund Balance	13,877.00

UNION PARISH COMM DIST

Beginning Fund Balance	299,968.00
Revenues and Other Sources	425,000.00
Expenses and Other Uses	-412,400.00
Ending Fund Balance	312,568.00

COLLECTIONS - SALES TAX

Beginning Fund Balance	77,552.00
Revenues and Other Sources	1,100,000.00
Expenses and Other Uses	-1,079,355.00
Ending Fund Balance	98,197.00

HUD SECTION 8

Beginning Fund Balance	127,059.00
Revenues and Other Sources	858,900.00
Expenses and Other Uses	-823,208.00
Ending Fund Balance	162,751.00

HOMELAND SECURITY

Beginning Fund Balance	58.10
Revenues and Other Sources	96,186.50
Expenses and Other Uses	-96,186.50
Ending Fund Balance	58.10

ARPA

Beginning Fund Balance	3,330,180.00
Revenues and Other Sources	0.00
Expenses and Other Uses	-3,330,180.00
Ending Fund Balance	0.00

A lengthy discussion was held regarding the Audit Engagement for 2024. There were two proposals submitted.

Bosch and Statham submitted a proposal for the following:

Audit	\$34,000
Single Audit	\$15,000
AUP	\$ 8,000
DEQ/Landfill	\$ 3,400

Jeff Maxwell submitted a proposal for the following:

Audit	\$48,000 to \$50,000
AUP	\$ 8,000
DEQ/Landfill	\$ 3,400

Mrs. Abercrombie stated that she liked to do business within the parish. Mrs. Abercrombie stated that she has received complaints from the public. During a previous meeting a member from the public tried to ask questions during a public meeting and did not feel like their questions were answered. Mrs. Abercrombie stated that we work for the people that are here and we are dealing with their tax dollars.

Mrs. Bosch stated that the lady in question was argumentative that day and she has never been put in that position before. Mrs. Bosch stated that there seems to be some misinformation about what an auditor does. Auditors are required to maintain their independence. Auditors can't perform management decisions but can answer questions. Auditors can't tell you what to do. They can advise, but ultimately the decision is up to the client. Mrs. Bosch stated that the lady in question was asking questions about interest rates. Auditors are not allowed to tell you how to invest but can tell you what the law says about investing. Mrs. Bosch further stated that she has been auditing the jury since 2006 and would be happy to continue to serve the jury.

Mr. Statham stated that he has been auditing the jury since 2010. Mr. Statham stated that he has gone through multiple jurors and two secretary/treasurers. Mr. Statham further stated that he has family and friends that live in Union Parish.

Mr. Maxwell addressed the jury and stated that he has an office in Union Parish. He has been auditing twenty (20) years and employs seven (7) people that work in Union Parish. Mr. Maxwell stated that he pays Union Parish taxes.

Motion Mr. Bridges, seconded by Mr. Pilgreen to retain Bosch and Statham for the 2023 audit.

Mr. Ramsey made a motion to retain Mr. Maxwell. Mrs. Abercrombie stated that a motion was already on the floor.

During the voting process, Joel Taylor addressed the jury regarding Mr. Maxwell. Mr. Taylor is a CPA in Union Parish and highly recommended Mr. Maxwell.

Mrs. Abercrombie stated the following: “yes means to stay with what we have and no means we are not going to stay with them.”

MEMBERS:	YEAS:	NAYS:	ABSENT:	ABSTAINING:
Curtis Moses		x		
Nathan Pilgreen	x			
Dewayne Ramsey		x		
Johnny Buckley			x	
Ben Bridges	x			
Ceis Nyegaard			x	
L.W. Nolan	x			
Brenda Abercrombie		x		
Andrew J. Ford, Jr.		x		

Motion failed with a vote of 3 YEAS, 4 NAYS and 2 ABSENT.

Motion Mr. Moses, seconded by Mr. Nolan, that the following action should be taken on the road material bids for the period of January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024:

- **Gasoline and diesel fuel** should be awarded to Hill Oil Co. and Lott Oil. Lott does not have the requested card system, but Mr. Alford did say they could install a pump reader on the fuel tanks. If they installed the regular pump reader it would not reflect the usage for each user.
- **Aviation fuel – No bids were received.**
- **CRS-2 Asphalt Emulsion and CSS-1H** - Bid should be awarded to Asphalt Products Unlimited and Ergon Asphalt & Emulsions, Inc. based upon the best price, availability, hauling, location of job and quantity needed.
- **AEP Asphalt Emulsion Prime** – No bid received.
- **MC-30 Cutback Asphalt** – Bid should be awarded to Asphalt Products Unlimited (only bidder).
- **Spiral metal culverts** – Bid should be awarded to TriState, Coastal Culverts, and Coburns Supply based upon the best price, availability, hauling, location of job and quantity needed.
- **Polyethylene pipe** - Bid should be awarded to TriState, Coastal Culverts, Irrigation Mart and Coburns Supply based upon the best price, availability, hauling, location of job and quantity needed.
- **Concrete Pipe** – Bid should be awarded to Coburns and Coastal Culvert based upon the best price, availability, hauling, location of job and quantity needed.
- **Hot Mix and Cold Mix** – Bid should be awarded to Amethyst Construction, Diamond B Construction and Dreher Contracting, LLC based upon the best price, availability, hauling, location of job and quantity needed.
- **Maintenance rock, oversize rock, clay gravel, fill sand, crushed concrete, pea gravel, and concrete sand** – Bid should be awarded to Standard Gravel, R.E. Bentz, Inc., Arkansas Gravel, Marco Farms, LLC, Ivy Brothers, L.J. Haddox & Son and Blann Tractor based upon the best price, availability, hauling, location of job and quantity needed.

- **Granite rock** – Bid should be awarded to Arkansas Gravel, Blann Tractor and R.E. Bentz based upon the best price, availability, hauling, location of job and quantity needed.

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion Mr. Ford, seconded by Mr. Moses to approve the amended 2023 budget and approve the 2024 budget for the North Louisiana Criminalistics Laboratory Commission. (This commission serves thirteen parishes. Although the police juries are not responsible for its day-to-day operations, State law mandates that they adopt its budget.) Motion carried unanimously.

Motion Mr. Moses, seconded by Mr. Ford to appoint/reappoint the following to the Union Parish Tourist Commission:

- **Joseph A. Cusimano, Jr., Chairman – Reappointment
1 year term ending on 12/31/2024**
- **Larry Pixley, District 2
4-year term ending 12/31/2027**
- **Brittany Canterbury, District 3, replacing and
completing the unexpired term of Gay Nell Pepper.
Term ending on 12/31/2026**
- **Paula Strickland, District 6
4-year term ending 12/31/2027**

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion Mr. Ford, seconded by Mr. Moses to approve the following board appointments from Reeves memorial Medical Center:

- **Appointment of Mark Deason (replace Mike Holley) beginning January 8th, 2024 and ending July 11th, 2029.**

Motion carried unanimously.

In accordance with Ordinance 549, time for public comment was given.

Johnny Creed addressed the Jury regarding the 2024 Budget and the General Admin other salary increase.

Mr. Maxwell addressed the jury and inquired if his engagement was approved. A brief discussion was held regarding procedural issues. The Audit Engagement Agenda Item #9 was not fully voted on. The Secretary/Treasurer clarified the motion that was previously made and that neither audit engagement was approved. **Motion Mr. Ramsey, seconded by Mr. Moses to approve the Audit Engagement provided by Jeff Maxwell for the 2023 Audit. Motion carried with the following Roll Call vote:**

MEMBERS: YEAS: NAYS: ABSENT: ABSTAINING:

Curtis Moses	x			
Nathan Pilgreen		x		
Dewayne Ramsey	x			
Johnny Buckley			x	
Ben Bridges		x		
Ceis Nyegaard			x	
L.W. Nolan		x		
Brenda Abercrombie	x			
Andrew J. Ford, Jr.	x			

Motion carried with a vote of 4 YEAS, 3 NAYS and 2 ABSENT.

There being no further business to come before the Jury, the President declared the meeting adjourned upon motion by Mr. Ramsey, seconded by Mr. Moses on this the 28th day of December, 2023.

s/ Paula H. Strickland

PAULA H. STRICKLAND
SECRETARY-TREASURER
UNION PARISH POLICE JURY

s/ Brenda Abercrombie

BRENDA ABERCROMBIE
PRESIDENT
UNION PARISH POLICE JURY