

REGULAR MEETING UNION PARISH POLICE JURY

Farmerville, Louisiana
January 9, 2024

The Union Parish Police Jury met this date in regular session in the Police Jury meeting room, Courthouse Annex, Farmerville, Louisiana with the following present: Curtis Moses, Nathan Pilgreen, Michael Holley, Glenn Hutto, Ben Bridges, Russell Wade, Jeremy Hobbs, Brenda Abercrombie and A.J. Ford, Jr. Absent: None. Also present was James Buckley, Assistant District Attorney.

James Buckley, Assistant District Attorney, called the session to order and welcomed all guests.

Sheriff Dusty Gates welcomed the new jurors and congratulated them on the journey that they are beginning to embark upon. Sheriff Gates thanked the new jurors for wanting to serve the public. Sheriff Gates stated that if the jurors will do what is right, what is best, and treat everyone the way that they want to be treated then they will succeed in leading Union Parish. Sheriff Gates further stated that although you are nine individuals it is about coming together and working together for the betterment of Union Parish. Sheriff Gates led the invocation.

Lance Futch, Union Parish Assessor, led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The Honorable Bruce Hampton, Third Judicial District Judge, addressed the jurors and congratulated each juror for winning their position. Judge Hampton stated that he cannot overstate the importance of their job. He thanked the jurors for their service.

The Honorable Bruce Hampton, Third Judicial District Judge, presided over the administering of the Oath of Office to the following members of the Union Parish Police Jury: Curtis Moses, Nathan Pilgreen, Michael Holley, Glenn Hutto, Ben Bridges, Russell Wade, Jeremy Hobbs, Brenda Abercrombie and A.J. Ford, Jr.

Mr. Buckley conducted the election for the 2024 President of the Union Parish Police Jury. Glenn Hutto was nominated by Mr. Holley, seconded by Mr. Pilgreen. Mrs. Abercrombie was nominated by Mr. Moses, seconded by Mr. Ford. Mr. Bridges moved to close the nominations for President. A Roll Call vote was held:

District 1	Abercrombie
District 2	Hutto
District 3	Hutto
District 4	Hutto
District 5	Hutto
District 6	Hutto
District 7	Hutto
District 8	Abercrombie
District 9	Abercrombie

Mr. Buckley calculated the votes and concluded that Mr. Hutto received 6 votes and Mrs. Abercrombie received 3 votes. Mr. Buckley declared Mr. Glenn Hutto as President of the Union Parish Police Jury for the year 2024.

Mr. Buckley conducted the election for the 2024 Vice-President of the Union Parish Police Jury. Michael Holley was nominated by Mr. Bridges, seconded by Mr. Pilgreen. Mr. Bridges moved to close the nominations for Vice-President. Mr. Buckley declared Michael Holley as Vice-President by acclamation.

President Hutto thanked everyone for their support. President Hutto welcomed everyone to the meeting and 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. No comment was made.

Mrs. Abercrombie announced that Shannon Futch has recently completed 30 hours of OSHA training at ULM. He has now completed the supervisor course. Mr. Futch has also been appointed to the Louisiana State Chair for Southern Central Chapter for the Association of Threat Assessment Professionals Committee. Mrs. Abercrombie further stated that Mr. Futch has been offered a job to be the secretary of the Region 8 board. Union Parish was recently honored due to Mr. Futch's stop the bleed kits he has been implementing in the Union Parish Schools.

Motion Mr. Bridges, seconded by Mr. Holley and declared adopted by unanimous vote of the Jury to approve the agenda with no changes.

Motion Mr. Moses, seconded by Mr. Ford to adopt the minutes of the December 5th, 2023 regular meeting, December 19th, 2023 and December 28th, 2023 special meetings. Motion carried unanimously.

The Secretary/Treasurer presented the Budget to Actual Revenue and Expense report for the month of December and explained to the jurors that the report reflects what has been budgeted for the year compared to what has been spent. The Secretary/Treasurer then presented a brief financial report.

There were no major expenditures for the month of December out of most of the funds. The only big expenses were routine such as payroll, health insurance, retirement and fuel costs. The Green Oaks juvenile invoice for December was \$23,819 and this was paid out of the General Fund.

The police jury transferred \$300,000 out of the General Fund in December to the Road Maintenance Department for the end of the year appropriation. The Road Maintenance Department received \$1,750,000 for the year.

Motion Mr. Moses, seconded by Mr. Ford to adopt the Revenues and Expenditures Report for the month of December 2023. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion Mr. Pilgreen, seconded by Mr. Bridges setting the regular monthly meetings of the Union Parish Police Jury to be held at the Courthouse Annex on the first (1st) Tuesday of every month at 6:00 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion Mr. Holley, seconded by Mr. Ford to approve the holiday schedule for 2024 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion Mr. Pilgreen, seconded by Mr. Bridges to reappoint Paula Strickland as the parish secretary-treasurer for the next two years. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion Mr. Bridges, seconded by Mr. Ford authorizing the removal of Brenda Abercrombie and DeWayne Ramsey from the bank signature cards; adding Glenn Hutto, Michael Holley and Paula Strickland to the bank signature cards and the execution of all necessary documents for this purpose. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion Mr. Pilgreen, seconded by Mr. Bridges to appoint Brenda Abercrombie as the Union Parish Police Juror on the Board of Directors of the North Delta Regional Planning and Development District, Inc. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion Mr. Holley, seconded by Mr. Moses to appoint Greg Gossler to the 911 Communications District Board as a representative for the Union Parish Police Jury. Motion carried unanimously.

A brief discussion was held concerning a representative to the Union Parish Detention Center for a four-year term. **Nathan Pilgreen was nominated by Mr. Holley, seconded by Mr. Hobbs. Mr. Ford was nominated by Mrs. Abercrombie, seconded by Mr. Moses. A Roll Call vote was held:**

District 1	Ford
District 2	Pilgreen
District 3	Pilgreen
District 4	Pilgreen
District 5	Pilgreen
District 6	Pilgreen
District 7	Pilgreen
District 8	Ford
District 9	Ford

Mr. Buckley calculated the votes and concluded that Mr. Pilgreen received 6 votes and Mr. Ford received 3 votes. Mr. Pilgreen will serve on the Union Parish Detention Center Commission for a four-year term as per La RS 15:850.3.

Motion Mr. Pilgreen, seconded by Mr. Holley to reappoint Ben Bridges to the Sparta Ground Water Conservation District Board. Motion carried unanimously.

The following resolution was offered by Mr. Pilgreen and seconded by Mr. Ford:

RESOLUTION 2024-01

A resolution approving the holding of an election in Northeast Union Fire District, Union Parish, Louisiana, on Saturday, April 27, 2024, to authorize the levy of a special tax therein.

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of Northeast Union Fire District, Union Parish, Louisiana (the "Governing Authority"), acting as the governing authority of Northeast Union Fire District, Union Parish, Louisiana (the "District"), adopted a resolution on December 4, 2023, calling a special election in the District on Saturday, April 27, 2024, to authorize the levy of a special tax therein; and

WHEREAS, the governing authority of the District has requested that this Police Jury, acting as the governing authority of the Parish of Union, State of Louisiana, give its consent and authority for the District to hold the aforesaid election, and in the event that the election carries to levy and collect the special tax provided for therein; and

WHEREAS, as required by Article VI, Section 15 of the Constitution of the State of Louisiana of 1974, it is now the desire of this Police Jury to approve the holding of said election and in the event that the election carries, to levy and collect the special tax provided for therein;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Police Jury of the Parish of Union, State of Louisiana, acting as the governing authority of said Parish, that:

SECTION 1. In compliance with the provisions of Article VI, Section 15 of the constitution of the State of Louisiana of 1974, and in accordance with the request of the Board of Commissioners of Northeast Union Fire District, Union Parish, Louisiana, this Police Jury hereby approves the holding of an election in the District, on Saturday, April 27, 2024, at which election there will be submitted the following proposition, to-wit:

PROPOSITION
(MILLAGE)

Shall Northeast Union Fire District, Union Parish, Louisiana (the “District”), levy a special tax of 10 mills on all the property subject to taxation in the District (an estimated \$97,000 reasonably expected at this time to be collected from the levy of the tax for an entire year), for a period of 10 years, beginning with the year 2024 and ending with the year 2033, for the purpose of acquiring, constructing, improving, maintaining and/or operating fire protection facilities and equipment in and for the District and paying the cost of obtaining water for fire protection purposes?

SECTION 2. In the event the election carries, this Police Jury does hereby further consent to and authorize the District to levy and collect the special tax provided for therein.

This resolution having been submitted to a vote; the vote thereon was as follows:

MEMBERS:	YEAS:	NAYS:	ABSENT:	ABSTAINING:
Curtis Moses	x			
Nathan Pilgreen	x			
Michael Holley	x			
Glenn Hutto	x			
Ben Bridges	x			
Russell Wade	x			
Jeremy Hobbs	x			
Brenda Abercrombie	x			
Andrew Ford, Jr.	x			

And the resolution was declared adopted on this, the 9th day of January, 2024.

s/ Paula H. Strickland
Secretary/Treasurer
Union Parish Police Jury

s/ Glenn Hutto
President
Union Parish Police Jury

CERTIFICATE

**STATE OF LOUISIANA
PARISH OF UNION**

I, the undersigned Secretary-Treasurer of the Police Jury of the Parish of Union, State of Louisiana, do hereby certify that the foregoing pages constitute a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by said Police Jury on January 9th, 2024, approving the holding of an election in Northeast Union Fire District, Union Parish, Louisiana, to authorize the levy of a special tax therein.

IN FAITH WHEREOF, witness my official signature at Farmerville, Louisiana, on this, the 9th day of January 9th, 2024.

Paula H. Strickland
Secretary/Treasurer
Union Parish Police Jury

Bob Myers addressed the jury regarding the bids for the Union Parish Sanitary Landfill Outfall 101 Pump Station. Mr. Myers stated that bids were opened on January 4th and four bids were received:

David Lawler Construction	\$575,905.00
McLemore Service Contractors	\$594,968.04
Don M. Barron Contractor	\$624,275.00
Benchmark Construction Group	\$837,405.00

Mr. Myers stated that he had an engineer's estimate of \$625,000.

Motion Mr. Bridges, seconded by Mr. Pilgreen to accept the lowest bid in the amount of \$575,905.00 from David Lawler Construction, Inc. Motion carried unanimously.

A brief discussion was held regarding the request from David Henderson on behalf of Boyz to Men. Mr. Buckley stated that the \$1,000 donation is not legally permitted because it would be a gratuitous donation of public funds, which is not permitted under Louisiana law. No action taken on this matter.

A lengthy discussion was held regarding several equipment purchases. The Public Works Director submitted an equipment list for the jury to consider. The following items were listed: Asphalt Zipper, Bumper Pull Trailer with (5) 13 yard roll off dumpsters, Mini Excavator, Kubota KX080, John Deere 75P, Caterpillar 307.5, Low Boy Trailer and a Lee Boy NV55 Broom Sweeper. Mrs. Abercrombie stated that if the equipment discussion is tabled the price of the equipment will continue to increase. The equipment list is not going to change. She stated that all of the new jurors were at the meeting in December when it was initially discussed. Mr. Durrett addressed the jury and stated that most of the Lee Boy Broom Sweeper is being paid with grant funds. **Motion Mr. Pilgreen, seconded by Mr. Bridges to move forward with the purchase of the Lee Boy NV55 Broom Sweeper and table the remaining equipment purchases. Motion carried unanimously.**

A brief discussion was held regarding the Chip Seal Cost for 2024. Mr. Durrett would like to order approximately \$200,000 of rock for the 2024 Chip Seal Program. Mr. Holley stated that the priority list for 2024 includes the following roads:

Concord Road	3.2 miles
Hamilton Road	1.9 miles
Downsville Road	2.7 miles

Motion Mr. Bridges, seconded by Mr. Pilgreen to continue with the 2024 Union Parish Police Jury Road Program as presented last year. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Johnny Creed, 7354 Highway 550, Spearsville, congratulated the jurors on their election.

There being no further business to come before the Jury, the President declared the meeting adjourned upon motion by Mr. Bridges, seconded by Mr. Ford on this the 9th day of January, 2024.

s/ Paula H. Strickland

Paula H. Strickland
Secretary/Treasurer
Union Parish Police Jury

s/ Glenn Hutto

Glenn Hutto
President
Union Parish Police Jury