

**ROAD COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024  
5:00 P.M.**

Present: Mike Holley, Jeremy Hobbs, Russell Wade and Nathan Pilgreen. Absent: None.  
Also present: Glenn Hutto, Ben Bridges, Curtis Moses, Brenda Abercrombie, Andrew Ford, Jr., Alan Ates, Jimmy Caldwell, Danielle Harkins, Pete Reynolds, Lawrence Hill, Ronnie Cole, Cindy McGibboney, Chris Strickland, Judy Auger and Lynn Ramsey.

Mr. Holley called the meeting to order. Mr. Wade led the group in prayer.

Public Comments were held on agenda items. Johnny Creed inquired about the status of Buffalo Landing Road. Chairman Mike Holley noted that Buffalo Landing Road was not on the agenda.

**Motion Mr. Pilgreen, seconded by Mr. Hobbs and declared adopted by unanimous roll call vote to approve the agenda as written.**

**Motion Mr. Wade, seconded by Mr. Pilgreen to approve the minutes of the March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.**

The Secretary/Treasurer reported that no bids were received for contract hauling. There were several inquiries, but no submissions. **No action taken.**

The Secretary/Treasurer reported that Lennie Smith submitted an appeal to get reimbursed for her tire. The jury's insurance company denied her claim. **Motion Mr. Wade, seconded by Mr. Pilgreen to deny Mrs. Smith's appeal. Motion carried unanimously.**

A brief discussion was held regarding the priority list for District 5. Bob Tom Riser addressed the Committee regarding the roads in District 5, specifically the Downsville area. Mr. Riser stated that Hamilton Road is on the 2024 Priority List. Mr. Riser inquired about the feasibility of repairing only a portion of Hamilton Road. The remainder of the money could be used on Pittman Road. **No action taken.**

A discussion was held regarding the fiber optic lines being laid in Union Parish. Josh Ethridge with EPC addressed the Committee regarding the fiber optic lines that are being laid. EPC is working on behalf of Conexon. David Carlson with Conexon was also in attendance. Fiber/internet is being brought to the rural areas using grant funds. Mr. Ethridge stated that he has a deadline of December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024 to complete the fiber run/turn-up to Marion. Mr. Ethridge further stated that he understands that the work is tough on the water systems and roads. His company is trying to keep the damage down to a minimum. They have been working on a direct line from Ruston to Marion. EPC had to go around the lake because the pole agreement with Claiborne Electric was not finalized, they had to lay their lines on some parish roads.

Mr. Bridges addressed Mr. Ethridge about the damage to the Rocky Branch Road. Rocky Branch Road is in District 8 which is Mrs. Abercrombie's area. The infrastructure was laid with no permit. ROW permits are required for each parish road. The integrity of the road is now compromised. EPC plowed the poly pipe down the edge of the traffic lane on Rocky Branch Road.

**Motion Mr. Wade, seconded by Mr. Pilgreen to recommend to the full jury to implement a \$50,000 road bond/deposit for EPC on parish roads when obtaining a utility/ROW permit. Motion carried unanimously.**

**There being no more business to come before the committee, Mr. Holley declared the meeting adjourned upon motion by Mr. Pilgreen and duly seconded by Mr. Hobbs on this the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of April, 2024.**

Mike Holley, Chairman  
Paula Strickland, Secretary/Treasurer