

REGULAR MEETING UNION PARISH POLICE JURY

Farmerville, Louisiana

May 7th, 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 Lewis Jones, Assistant District Attorney. The President called the session to order and welcomed all guests. Mr. Ford offered the invocation and Mrs. Abercrombie led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

President Hutto welcomed everyone to the meeting. President Hutto 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.

Johnny Creed addressed the jury regarding the Finance Committee recommendations (UPDC Finances).

Fred Carr addressed the jury regarding the Executive Committee recommendations (Betty Street Community Center).

Lee Roy Warren addressed the jury regarding the Executive Committee recommendations (Betty Street Community Center).

Motion Mrs. Abercrombie, seconded by Mr. Pilgreen to amend the agenda as follows:

#18 Discuss and take action, if necessary, regarding bidding out two (2) tandem axle trucks.

Motion Mr. Bridges, seconded by Mrs. Abercrombie and declared adopted by unanimous vote of the Jury to approve the agenda as amended above.

Motion Mr. Holley, seconded by Mr. Ford to adopt the minutes of the April 2nd, 2024 regular meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

The Revenue and Expense report for the month of April was presented to the Finance Committee earlier. The Revenue and Expense report shows what expenditures were incurred and what revenues were received for the month of April.

Motion Mr. Wade, seconded by Mr. Moses to adopt the Revenue and Expenditures Report for the month of April which was presented to the Finance Committee earlier. Motion carried unanimously.

The following resolution was offered by Mr. Wade and seconded by Mrs. Abercrombie:



RESOLUTION NO. 2024-05

A resolution approving the holding of an election in Bernice Area Fire Protection District of the Parish of Union, State of Louisiana, on Saturday, December 7, 2024, to authorize the renewal of a special tax therein.

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of Bernice Area Fire Protection District of the Parish of Union, State of Louisiana (the "Governing Authority"), acting as the governing authority of Bernice Area Fire Protection District of the Parish of Union, State of Louisiana (the "District"), adopted a resolution on April 4, 2024, calling a special election in the District on Saturday, December 7, 2024, to authorize the renewal 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 continue 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 continue 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 Bernice Area Fire Protection District of the Parish of Union, State of Louisiana, this Police Jury hereby approves the holding of an election in the District, on Saturday, December 7, 2024, at which election there will be submitted the following proposition, to-wit:

PROPOSITION (MILLAGE RENEWAL)

Shall the Bernice Area Fire Protection District of the Parish of Union, State of Louisiana (the "District"), continue to levy a special tax of 8 mills on all the property subject to taxation within the District (an estimated \$88,000 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 2026 and ending with the year 2035, for the purpose of acquiring, constructing, improving, maintaining and/or operating fire protection facilities, vehicles and equipment for the District, including both moveable and immoveable property, and paying the cost of

obtaining water for fire protection purposes, provided that a portion of the Tax proceeds is required to be contributed to state and statewide retirement systems as provided in R.S. 11:82?

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

This resolution was declared adopted on May 7th, 2024 at its regular meeting where a Quorum was present. The vote was as follows:

YEAS: Moses, Pilgreen, Holley, Hutto, Bridges, Wade, Hobbs, Abercrombie and Ford
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None

WHEREUPON, the Resolution was declared duly adopted this 7th day of May, 2024.

s/ Paula H. Strickland
PAULA STRICKLAND
SECRETARY-TREASURER
UNION PARISH POLICE JURY

s/ Glenn W. Hutto
GLENN W. HUTTO
PRESIDENT
UNION PARISH POLICE JURY

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 May 7th, 2024, approving the holding of an election in Bernice Area Fire Protection District of the Parish of Union, State of Louisiana, to authorize the renewal of a special tax therein.

IN FAITH WHEREOF, witness my official signature at Farmerville, Louisiana, on this, the 7th day of May, 2024.

s/ Paula H. Strickland
Paula H. Strickland
Secretary/Treasurer

Motion Mr. Bridges, seconded by Mrs. Abercrombie to appoint Chris Burch to the Ward Five Fire Protection District for a two-year term beginning May 8th, 2024 and ending May 8th, 2026; appoint Terrance Burke to the Ward Five Fire Protection District for a one-year term beginning May 8th, 2024 and ending May 8th, 2025. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion Mrs. Abercrombie, seconded by Mr. Ford to approve travel for the Registrar of Voters and Chief Deputy to the Elections Academy in Baton Rouge on May 22nd, 2024. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion Mr. Moses, seconded by Mr. Ford to approve travel for the Secretary/Treasurer and staff to attend the annual OPAO Conference in Lafayette on July 30th – August 2nd, 2024. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion Mr. Ford, seconded by Mr. Bridges to hire Tremaine Fields for full-time employment at the Landfill with his time being counted back to his original hire date of February 15th, 2024. His full-time status is effective May 20th, 2024 and at that time he is eligible for all police jury benefits including retirement, insurance, vacation, sick leave and holiday pay. Motion carried unanimously.

Recommendations from the Finance Committee.

Mr. Wade reported that the Finance Committee met earlier at 12:30 PM.

Motion Mr. Wade, seconded by Mr. Holley that the building permit process for poultry houses will be issued according to electrical meter. Building permits will be issued one permit per electrical meter instead of each poultry house. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion Mr. Wade, seconded by Mr. Holley to eliminate overtime for office personnel at the Landfill. Lunch breaks will be staggered accordingly, and supervisor weighmasters will be utilized when necessary. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion Mr. Wade, seconded by Mr. Bridges to authorize the Secretary/Treasurer to solicit bids for materials/supplies on a six (6) month basis instead of one year. Motion carried unanimously.

Recommendations from the Equipment Committee.

Mr. Ford reported that the Equipment Committee met earlier at 1:30 PM.

Motion Mr. Ford, seconded by Mrs. Abercrombie to purchase a 6105E John Deere Tractor off state contract from Goldman Equipment in the amount of \$80,462.68. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion Mr. Ford, seconded by Mr. Moses to authorize the Secretary/Treasurer to obtain quotes for a twelve (12) foot single wing cutter. Secretary/Treasurer to notify jury via email with quotes. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion Mr. Ford, seconded by Mr. Moses to authorize the Secretary/Treasurer to obtain quotes for three (3) grader blades (six foot and eight foot). Secretary/Treasurer to notify jury via email with quotes. Motion carried unanimously.

Recommendations from the Executive Committee.

Mr. Bridges reported that the Executive Committee met earlier at 2:00 PM.

Mr. Bridges reported that the Committee discussion centered around the Betty Street Community Center lease. The committee is recommending that only the lease be terminated. Betty Street Community Center will not be shut down. The lease will be terminated immediately after the necessary thirty (30) day notice. Mr. Hutto announced that a Roll Call vote will be taken to terminate the Betty Street Community Center dba Union Parish Little League District 5 lease agreement. **Motion Mr. Bridges, seconded by Mr. Wade to terminate the Betty Street Community Center dba Union Parish Little League District 5 lease agreement.**

	TERMINATE LEASE	NOT TO TERMINATE
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
Motion to terminate carried with a vote of 7 (terminate) to 2 (not terminate).		

Recommendations from the Road Committee.

Mr. Holley stated that the Road Committee met earlier at 2:45 PM and have five (5) recommendations.

Motion Mr. Holley, seconded by Mr. Pilgreen to authorize Riley Company to advertise for bids for the Alabama Landing Project (FLAP). Motion carried unanimously.

Motion Mr. Holley, seconded by Mr. Hobbs to accept the bid from Durable Piling Restoration in the amount of \$144,895.00 for repairs for the Linville Firetower Bridge Repairs Project. Durable Piling Restoration was the only bidder. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion Mr. Holley, seconded by Mr. Wade to hire Tim Coggins Welding @ \$100 per hour in forty (40) hour increments to mow/trim limbs on parish roads. If any equipment hauling is to be done it will be at the cost of \$120 per hour. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion Mr. Holley, seconded by Mr. Pilgreen to allow EPC to increase the amount of permitted feet laid from 50,000 to 100,000 feet per day. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion Mr. Holley to authorize the Secretary/Treasurer to advertise for the deletion of Taylor Drive. Motion failed due to lack of a second.

Recommendations from the Landfill Committee.

Mr. Bridges stated that the Landfill Committee met earlier at 3:45 PM.

Motion Mr. Bridges, seconded by Mrs. Abercrombie to accept the lowest bid from Wastequip for 100 front load dumpsters in the amount of \$108,420.61 and authorize the Secretary/Treasurer to contact Wastequip to place an order. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion Mr. Bridges, seconded by Mr. Ford to move forward with the purchase of two acres of land in the Spearsville area and authorize the President to execute any necessary documents to complete the transaction. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion Mr. Bridges, seconded by Mrs. Abercrombie to solicit RFP's for the Landfill Gas Reuse Project. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion Mrs. Abercrombie, seconded by Mr. Bridges to authorize the Secretary/Treasurer to advertise for two (2) tandem axle trucks. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Lee Roy Warren, 511 Downsville Street, addressed the jury regarding Betty Street Community Center.

Maribeth Biron, 740 Spring Lake Road, addressed the jury regarding updates on Scotts Hideaway Road (FEMA). Mrs. Biron also wants updates on the Scotts Hideaway chip/seal issues.

Steve Auger, 2675 Highway 549, addressed the jury regarding the Homeland Security Director being a part time position.

Marc Temple, 613 Edward Ferry Road, Farmerville, thanked the jury for the work that has been recently done on Edward Ferry Road.

Zach Alford, 311 Perkins Road, addressed the jury regarding Moshack Road.

Lynn Ramsey, 167 Jerry Ramsey Road, addressed Lewis Jones regarding the jury holding early meetings and the possibility of the jury violating the sunshine laws. Mr. Jones stated that when most people refer to sunshine laws, they are referring to members of the jury getting together outside of a regular meeting to discuss police jury business. Mr. Jones further stated that as far as timing of the meetings go the jury has violated no laws. Mrs. Ramsey questioned whether they could meet at 9AM and Mr. Jones stated as long as they have a quorum and the meeting was noticed then they could.

There being no further business to come before the Jury, the President declared the meeting adjourned upon motion by Mr. Bridges, seconded by Mr. Holley on this the 7th day of May, 2024.

s/ Paula H. Strickland

Paula H. Strickland
Secretary/Treasurer
Union Parish Police Jury

s/ Glenn Hutto

Glenn Hutto
President
Union Parish Police Jury