

Colfax, LA
September 11, 2025

The Police Jury of the Parish of Grant, State of Louisiana, met in regular session at its meeting place, the Grant Parish Police Jury Meeting Room, 200 Main Street, Colfax, Louisiana, on Thursday, September 11, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.

The following members were present:
Mr. Mark Ball, Mr. Cephas Bowie Jr., Mr. Brandon DuBois, Mr. Arnold Murrell, Mr. Roy Edwards, and Mr. Mike Merrell

The following members were absent:
Mr. Johnny Jamison and Mr. Winston Roberts

Motion by Mr. Brandon DuBois, seconded by Mr. Arnold Murrell to open agenda to public comments on agenda items. Motion carried unanimously.
No comments brought forth.

Motion by Mr. Brandon DuBois, seconded by Mr. Roy Edwards to accept the minutes of the last meeting as published in the official journal. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Amy Guidry, Operational Coordinator with Acadian Ambulance Service introduced Mr. Rick Barr, Operations Supervisor, Central LA to the jury and presented the monthly call report for August. 231 calls for an ambulance with an average parish wide response time of 18 minutes 21 seconds.

Mr. J. R. Whaley was unable to attend and the item has been tabled for now

Motion by Mr. Brandon DuBois, seconded by Mr. Arnold Murrell to introduce Ordinance 05-2025; To Abolish the Ward 7 Hospital Service District. Motion carried unanimously.

ORDINANCE NO.
ABOLISHING THE WARD SEVEN HOSPITAL SERVICE DISTRICT

WHEREAS, in accordance with Chapter 10, Part 1, Title 46 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended (La. R.S. 46:1051 et seq.), the Grant Parish Police Jury, by Ordinance adopted on the 8th day of July, 1952, created the Ward Seven Hospital Service District; and

WHEREAS, the District owned and operated a medical clinic in Montgomery, Louisiana, known as the Montgomery Family Clinic (the “Clinic”), and levied ad valorem taxes for the purpose of maintaining, improving, and operating the Clinic; and

WHEREAS, the Parish no longer has a need for the Ward Seven Hospital Service District; and

WHEREAS, Article VI, Section 15 of the Louisiana Constitution of 1974 provides that the governing authority of a local governmental subdivision shall have general power over any agency heretofore or hereafter created by it, including, without limitation, the power to abolish the agency and require prior approval of any charge or tax levied or bond issued by the agency; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Brasseaux v. Vermilion Parish Police Jury, 361 So.2d 35 (La. App. 3rd Cir. 1978), the word “agency” as used in said Article VI, Section 15, includes special districts, such as a hospital service district, created by a parish governing authority; and

WHEREAS, La. R.S. 33:1415 provides in pertinent part that in any case where the governing authority of any parish or municipality shall have created or established, or shall thereafter create or establish, any board, commission, agency, district, office, government, or any unit having governmental functions, power or authority, such governing authority is hereby authorized to abolish same, provided, that where any indebtedness of any such board, commission, agency, district, office, government, or any entity whatever having governmental functions, is outstanding, the authority herein provided shall not be exercised until provision is made for the assumption of such indebtedness in the manner provided by law; and

WHEREAS, this governing authority of Grant Parish now wishes to abolish the Ward Seven Hospital Service District in accordance with said Article VI, Section 15 of the Louisiana Constitution of 1974, and La. R.S. 33:1415; inasmuch as the District no longer has any outstanding indebtedness, this governing authority further wishes to abolish the ad valorem tax that was renewed in March of 2023 effective January 1, 2025; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED that:

SECTION 1. Abolishment of District. In accordance with the authority granted by Article VI, Section 15 of the Louisiana Constitution of 1974, La. R.S. 11:1415 and other constitutional and statutory authority. The Ward Seven Hospital Service District, Parish of Grant, State of Louisiana, shall be abolished, effective upon the effective date of this ordinance. The Board of Directors of The Ward Seven Hospital District is also abolished as of the effective date of the abolishment of the district.

SECTION 2. Title to the Hospital.

Title to the following property shall be returned to the Parish of Grant:

Lots Nine (9) and Ten (10) and Eleven (11) of Block Eight (8) of the Village of Montgomery, in Grant Parish, Louisiana, together with all improvements thereon situated.

being the same property acquired by the District by Ordinance No. 18 from the Village of Montgomery, Louisiana, acting as the governing authority of said village on June 22, 1954, and Quitclaim Deed signed December 11, 1954 purchasing the following lot:

Lot Eleven (11) of Block Eight (8) of the Village of Montgomery, in Grant Parish, Louisiana, together with all improvements thereon situated.

together will all buildings, structures, and improvements now or hereafter erected on the foregoing site and all machinery, devices, apparatus, equipment, fixtures, appurtenances, or other property whatsoever now or hereafter attached to or installed in the buildings and other improvements now erected or hereafter erected on the foregoing site, including, but not limited to, all heating, plumbing, lighting, water heating, ventilating and air conditioning equipment, utility lines and equipment (whether owned individually or jointly with others), and sprinkler systems, all fixtures, accessions and appurtenances thereto, and all renewals or replacements of or substitutions for any of the foregoing, all of which property and things are hereby declared to be permanent fixtures and accessories to the foregoing site; all easements and rights of way used in connection with the foregoing site or as a means of ingress to or egress from said property; all interests of the District in and to any streets, ways, alleys, and/or strips of land adjoining the foregoing site or any part thereof; all rights, estates, powers and privileges appurtenant or incident to the foregoing; and all existing or future furniture, furnishings, equipment, and any and all other movables of any kind or character now or hereafter placed from time to time in or upon the foregoing site, and all rents, issues and profits thereof.

SECTION 3. Division of Other Assets of the District. In approving the foregoing allocations, the land and buildings constituting the Ward Seven Hospital Service District have been assigned a fair market value of \$155,000.00 in accordance with an appraisal thereof dated 08/29/20. The Grant Parish Police Jury has considered and taken into account the relative assessed valuations of the District, the proposed use of the Hospital, and the public purposes served thereby and the relative benefits to be realized by Grant Parish from the transactions approved in this ordinance. It is found and determined that the allocations of the assets of the district in the manner provided for in this ordinance are fair, equitable, reasonable, and shall not constitute a gratuitous transfer of public funds.

SECTION 4. Expenditure of Other Assets of the District. After winding down all business of the District and upon receipt by the Grant Parish Police Jury of the remaining assets, cash, and property, such assets, cash, and property shall be expended by the Grant Parish Police Jury solely for the provision of health and welfare services within Grant Parish.

SECTION 5. Effective Date: Publication. This ordinance shall become effective immediately upon its adoption, and as provided by law, shall be published in the official journal of Grant Parish.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that if any provision of this ordinance shall be held to be invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions herein which can be given effect without the invalid provision and to this end the provisions of this ordinance are hereby declared to be severable.

WHEREUPON THIS ORDINANCE WAS ADOPTED TO A VOTE AND RESULTED IN THE FOLLOWING:

YEAS: _____ NAYS: _____ ABSENT: _____

AND THIS ORDINANCE WAS ADOPTED ON THIS ____th DAY OF OCTOBER, 2025.

Jessie Pace
Secretary-Treasurer
Grant Parish Police Jury

Mark Ball
President
Grant Parish Police Jury

CERTIFICATE

I, Jessie Pace, Secretary/Treasurer of the Grant Parish Police Jury, do hereby certify the forgoing is a true and correct copy of an Ordinance adopted by the said Police Jury in a regular session on the ____TH day of October, 2025, at which a quorum was present.

Jessie Pace
Secretary/Treasurer

Jurors discussed two candidates from Rapides Parish running for Executive Board Member for the Region VIII Police Jury Association of Louisiana Mr. Sean McGlothlin and Mr. Parrish Giles. Letters from each candidate were read aloud along with the resolution from the Rapides Parish Police Jury supporting Mr. Parrish Giles.

Motion by Mr. Roy Edwards, seconded by Mr. Arnold Murrell to endorse Mr. Parrish Giles as Executive Board Member for Region VIII of the Police Jury Association of Louisiana. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Mr. Mike Merrell, seconded by Mr. Roy Edwardsto accept and sign the new Road Agreement 25-11080600-430 with Kisatchie National Forest. Motion carried unanimously. (please go to www.gppj.org for full contract)

Motion by Mr. Cephas Bowie, Jr., seconded by Mr. Arnold Murrell to adopt Resolution 25-2025; Community Water Enrichment Fund for Fiscal Year 2025-2026. Motion carried unanimously.

**RESOLUTION
25-2025
COMMUNITY WATER ENRICHMENT FUND FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026**

***WHEREAS,** The parish of Grant will apply for a grant known as the Community Water enrichment Fund to be implemented by the office of Community Development for the purposes of enhancing and improving rural water systems.*

***NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** the Police Jury of the Parish of Grant does hereby authorize, empower and direct its President, to execute on behalf of the Parish all applications, agreements, contracts and necessary documents to complete the project.*

The above Resolution was introduced at regular meeting of the Police Jury on September 11, 2025.

The Resolution having been put to a vote, the roll call vote thereupon was recorded as follows, to-wit:

AYES: Mr. Roy Edwards, Mr. Brandon DuBois, Mr. Arnold Murrell, Mr. Mike Merrell

Mr. Cephas Bowie Jr., Mr. Mark Ball

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Mr. Johnny Jamison, Mr. Winston Roberts

Thereupon, Mr. Mark Ball, President, declared the Resolution passed by a vote of 6 ayes to 0 nays, this 11th day of September, 2025.

(s) Jessie Pace
Jessie Pace
Secretary/Treasurer
Grant Parish Police Jury

(s) Mark Ball
Mark Ball
President
Grant Parish Police Jury

CERTIFICATE

I, Jessie Pace, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing constitutes a true and correct copy of a Resolution passed and adopted by the Grant Parish Police Jury on this 11th day of September, 2025.

(s) Jessie Pace
Jessie Pace, Secretary/Treasurer

Motion by Mr. Brandon DuBois, seconded by Mr. Cephas Bowie, Jr. to accept the proposed 2026 pay increases for jury employees as recommended by the Personnel Committee. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Mr. Brandon DuBois, seconded by Mr. Cephas Bowie, Jr. to hire a part time (12-15 hours per week) custodian for the courthouse as recommended by the Personnel Committee. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Mr. Cephas Bowie, Jr., seconded by Mr. Brandon DuBois to approve using Capital Improvement Funds from District 3 for Lemoine Cutoff Road (US 71 to Lemoine Cemetery Road). Motion carried unanimously.

Jurors discussed River Rouge Plantation Road and Howard LaCour Road limits in regards to the parish maintenance system.

Motion by Mr. Cephas Bowie, Jr., seconded by Mr. Brandon DuBois to establish parish maintenance as follows: River Rouge Road begins at LA 8 and ends at the beginning of slope/ramp of levee and/or pavement dead-end effective October 11, 2025 and Howard Lacour Road begins at LA 8 and ends at the beginning of slope/ ramp of levee effective October 11, 2025.

Yeas: Mr. Cephas Bowie, Jr., Mr. Brandon DuBois, Mr. Roy Edwards, and Mr. Arnold Murrell
Nays: None
Abstain: Mr. Mike Merrell
Motion carried.

Jurors Discussed the operations and maintenance of the Bayou Rigolette and Bayou Darrow Drainage Structures owned by the Corp of Engineers and the Town of Colfax. The Secretary/Treasurer will request a legal opinion from the DA to get clarification as to who should be managing the funds per the contract agreements.

Mr. Cody Gongre, Grant Parish Roads Superintendent, updated the jury on projects from the Landfill and Roads Departments.

Motion by Mr. Arnold Murrell, seconded by Mr. Roy Edwards to pay bill as funds become available. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Mr. Brandon DuBois, seconded by Mr. Roy Edwards to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

Disclaimer: These minutes are not official until adopted by the jury at the next meeting.