

Colfax, LA
July 11, 2024

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, July 11, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.

The following members were present:

Mr. Mark Ball, Mr. Cephas Bowie Jr., Mr. Brandon DuBois, Mr. Johnny Jamison, Mr. Arnold Murrell, Mr. Roy Edwards, Mr. Winston Roberts, and Mr. Mike Merrell

The following members were absent:

None

Motion by Mr. Arnold Murrell, seconded by Mr. Roy Edwards to open the meeting to public comments on agenda items. Motion carried.

No public comments were brought forth.

Motion by Mr. Johnny Jamison, seconded by Mr. Arnold Murrell to accept the minutes of the last meeting as published in the official journal. Motion carried.

Mr. Jeff Pogue, Operations Manager of Acadian Ambulance, gave the June call report for the parish.
148 calls for an ambulance / 147 emergency transports
6 Air Med calls / 3 emergency transports

Motion by Mr. Arnold Murrell, seconded by Mr. Brandon DuBois to adopt Resolution 11-2024; Authorizing Mark Ball as Signatory Party for Cooperative Endeavor Agreement for ACT 782 of 2024, Regular Legislative Session of the Louisiana Legislative Program of Behalf of Grant Parish. Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION
11-2024**

Cooperative Endeavor Agreement
Louisiana Department of the Treasury
State of Louisiana

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Grant Parish Police Jury that its President, Mark Ball, is hereby authorized as the signatory party to execute “Louisiana Department of the Treasury and the State of Louisiana Cooperative Endeavor Agreement for HB 792 of 2024 Regular Legislative Session of the Louisiana Legislature Program” on behalf of Grant Parish.

The Grant Parish Police Jury adopted the above Resolution during regular session convened on Thursday, July 11, 2024.

CERTIFICATION

I, Jessie Pace, Parish Manager of the Grant Parish Police Jury, State of Louisiana, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and exact copy of a RESOLUTION adopted by the Police Jury of the Parish of Grant, State of Louisiana, in regular session convened on July 11, 2024 at which a quorum was present.

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

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

STATE OF LOUISIANA
PARISH OF GRANT

GIVEN UNDER MY OFFICIAL SIGNATURE and Seal of Office on this the 11th day of July, 2024.

(s) Jessie Pace
Jessie Pace
Grant Parish Police Jury

Motion by Mr. Arnold Murrell, seconded by Mr. Brandon DuBois to adopt Resolution 13-2024; Millage Rates for 2024 Tax Year. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION: 13-2024

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following millage(s) are hereby levied on the 2024 tax roll on all property subject to taxation by Grant Parish Police Jury:

	<u>MILLAGE</u>
General Alimony	4.13 Mills
Roads and Bridges	7.90 Mills
Courthouse Maintenance	2.96 Mills
Health Unit	1.90 Mills
Library	10.02 Mills

Fire District No. 1	20.24 Mills
Fire District No. 2	12.56 Mills
Fire District No. 3	13.42 Mills
Fire District No. 4	9.20 Mills
Fire District No. 5	11.03 Mills
Fire District No. 6	11.81 Mills
Fire District No. 7	12.26 Mills

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the proper administrative officials of the Parish of Grant, State of Louisiana, be and they are hereby empowered, authorized, and directed to spread said taxes, as hereinabove set forth, upon the assessment roll of said Parish for the year 2024, and to make the collection of the taxes imposed for and on behalf of the taxing authority, according to law, and that the taxes herein levied shall become a permanent lien and privilege on all property subject to taxation as herein set forth, and collection thereof shall be enforceable in the manner provided by law.

The foregoing resolution was read in full, the roll was called on the adoption thereof, and the resolution was adopted by the following votes:

YEAS: 8
 NAYS: 0
 ABSTAINED: 0
 ABSENT: 0

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

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

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and exact copy of the resolution adopted at the board meeting held on June 11, 2024, at which meeting a quorum was present and voting.

(s) Jessie Pace
 Jessie Pace
 Secretary/Treasurer/Parish Manager

Motion by Mr. Winston Roberts, seconded by Mr. Cephas Bowie, Jr. to adopt Resolution 14-2024; Kroger and Future Opioid Settlement. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 14-2024

A Resolution authorizing Grant Parish to participate in the recent national *Kroger Settlement Agreement* (“Kroger National Settlement”),¹ and any future settlements with any additional defendants or other parties arising from or relating to Grant Parish’s claims in the national opioid litigation (“Future National Settlements”), in conjunction with and pursuant to the previously agreed to Louisiana Memorandum of Understanding with the Louisiana Attorney General’s Office (“Louisiana MOU”).²

WHEREAS, Grant Parish has suffered harm from the opioid epidemic;

WHEREAS, Grant Parish recognizes that the entire State of Louisiana has suffered harm as a result from the opioid epidemic;

WHEREAS, the State of Louisiana has a pending action in state court, and a number of Louisiana Parishes, Cities and Special Districts have also filed actions in state court or have been transferred to, or directly in, *In re: National Prescription Opiate Litigation*, MDL No. 2804 (N.D. Ohio) (the “Opioid Litigation” or “national opioid litigation”).

WHEREAS, Grant Parish is a litigating political subdivision and has a pending action in the Opioid Litigation;³

WHEREAS, this Kroger National Settlement was publicly announced to all potential participating subdivisions nationwide on or around May 30, 2024;

WHEREAS, Kroger⁴ has not been named as a party in Grant Parish’s pending action in the Opioid Litigation;

WHEREAS, Grant Parish recognizes, acknowledges and accepts that it is eligible to participate in the recently announced Kroger National Settlement, even though Kroger is not a named party in Grant Parish’s pending action;

WHEREAS, Grant Parish recognizes and acknowledges that it will likely be eligible to participate in Future National Settlements arising from or relating to the national opioid litigation and/or Grant Parish’s claims and pending action;

WHEREAS, participation in the Kroger National Settlement by a large majority of Louisiana cities, parishes and special districts will maximize the amount of funds allocated for Louisiana under the Settlement Agreement;

WHEREAS, failure to participate in the Kroger National Settlement will reduce funds available to the State, Grant Parish, and every other Louisiana City, Parish and Special District;

¹ Available at: <https://nationalopioidsettlement.com/>; <https://nationalopioidsettlement.com/faq-explanatory-charts/>; <https://nationalopioidsettlement.com/kroger-co-settlement/>; <https://nationalopioidsettlement.com/faq-explanatory-charts/>.

² See <https://nationalopioidsettlement.com/states/louisiana/> and <https://nationalopioidsettlement.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/2021.10.21-MOU-Opioid-Litigation.pdf>.

³ *Grant Parish, Louisiana v. Purdue Pharma L.P. et al*, Case No. 1:19-op-45277-DAP (N.D. Ohio).

⁴ “Kroger” includes all those listed in the relevant Settlement Agreement, including those identified in Section I, Paragraph MMM of the Settlement Agreement and those listed in Exhibit J appended to Settlement Agreement, including all of their subsidiaries, predecessors, successors, joint venturers, current officers, directors, employees, representatives, agents, affiliates, parents, and assigns.

WHEREAS, participation in Future National Settlements by a large majority of Louisiana cities, parishes and special districts will likely maximize the amount of funds allocated for Louisiana under those future Settlement Agreements;

WHEREAS, failure to participate in Future National Settlements will likely reduce funds available to the State, Grant Parish, and every other Louisiana City, Parish and Special District;

WHEREAS, Grant Parish's private attorneys from Neblett, Beard & Arsenault (and other co-counsel firms) have sufficiently explained the details of the Kroger National Settlement to Grant Parish (through its Parish Manager or other representative), Grant Parish has had an opportunity to ask questions concerning same, and Grant Parish's private attorneys have satisfactorily answered those questions to the best of their ability and based on currently available information;

WHEREAS, Grant Parish's private attorneys from Neblett, Beard & Arsenault (and other co-counsel firms) will explain the details of any Future National Settlements to Grant Parish (through its Parish Manager or other representative), Grant Parish will have an opportunity to ask questions concerning same, and Grant Parish's private attorneys will answer those questions to the best of their ability and based on then-available information;

WHEREAS, Grant Parish's private attorneys from Neblett, Beard & Arsenault (and other co-counsel firms) firmly believe that Grant Parish's participation in the current Kroger National Settlement and Future National Settlements is and will be in Grant Parish's best interest;

WHEREAS, Grant Parish's private attorneys from Neblett, Beard & Arsenault (and other co-counsel firms) strongly recommend that Grant Parish participate in the current Kroger National Settlement and any Future National Settlements arising from or relating to Grant Parish's pending action and claims in the national opioid litigation, and agree to be bound by the terms thereof; and

WHEREAS, Grant Parish finds it prudent, appropriate and necessary to: (1) authorize the Parish President or his/her designee, including the Parish Manager, to agree to any and all current and future National Settlements arising from or relating to resolution of Grant Parish's claims in the National Opioid Litigation and its pending action; and (2) authorize the Parish President, or his/her designee including the Parish Manager, to execute any formal agreements required by the Louisiana MOU or required to effect Grant Parish's participation in all current and future National Settlements, including but not limited to, any Subdivision Settlement Participation Form(s)/Agreement(s), Release(s) or other documents required by any Settlement Agreements arising from or relating to resolution of Grant Parish's claims in the National Opioid Litigation and pending action.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GRANT PARISH POLICE JURY:

SECTION 1. That Grant Parish finds that participation in the Kroger National Settlement is in the best interest of Grant Parish, its citizens, and its community(ies).

SECTION 2. That Grant Parish hereby re-affirms its support of a unified plan for the allocation of any funds and use of opioid settlement proceeds as generally described in the previously agreed-to and executed Louisiana MOU.

SECTION 3. That the Parish President or his/her designee, including the Parish Manager, is hereby authorized to execute any and all documents or formal agreements to effectuate Grant Parish's participation in the current Kroger National Settlement, including but not limited to, Settlement Participation Form(s)/Agreement(s), Releases and other necessary documents.

SECTION 4. That the Parish President or his/her designee, including the Parish Manager, is also hereby authorized to: (1) agree to any and all current and future National Settlements arising from or relating to resolution of Grant Parish's claims in the National Opioid Litigation and its pending action; (2) execute any formal agreements required by the Louisiana MOU or required to effect Grant Parish's participation in all current and future National Settlements, including but not limited to, any Subdivision Settlement Participation Form(s)/Agreement(s), Release(s) or other documents required by any Settlement Agreements arising from or relating to resolution of Grant Parish's claims in the National Opioid Litigation and its pending action.

SECTION 5. That Grant Parish's private attorneys from Neblett, Beard & Arsenault (and other co-counsel firms) are authorized to perform any and all work necessary to accomplish resolution of Grant Parish's claims in the National Opioid Litigation and its pending action.

SECTION 6. That the Secretary/Treasurer/Parish Manager be and hereby is instructed to record this Resolution in the appropriate record book upon its adoption.

SECTION 7. The Secretary/Treasurer/Parish Manager is hereby directed to furnish a certified copy of this Resolution to:

Neblett, Beard & Arsenault
c/o Dustin C. Carter
P.O. Box 12120
Alexandria, LA 71315

SECTION 6. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

Adopted this 11th day of July, 2024.

POLICE JURY PRESIDENT: (s) Mark Ball
Mark Ball

ATTEST:

(s) Jessie Pace
Secretary/Treasurer/Parish Manager

Motion by Mr. Brandon DuBois, seconded by Mr. Johnny Jamison to purchase a new truck for the courthouse maintenance. Motion carried

Motion by Mr. Cephas Bowie, Jr., seconded by Mr. Johnny Jamison to purchase a new lawn mower and trailer for courthouse maintenance. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Brandon DuBois, seconded by Mr. Roy Edwards to hire one additional person in the Registrar of Voter's Office in accordance with HB 89.

Yeas: Cephas Bowie, Jr., Mr. Arnold Murrell, Mr. Mike Merrell

Nays: Mr. Winston Roberts and Mr. Johnny Jamison

Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Mark Ball, seconded by Mr. Arnold Murrell to approve an agreement with the Hudson Creek Community Center and Fire Department to transport materials for expansion of the parking lot. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Cephas Bowie, Jr., seconded by Mr. Brandon DuBois to approve recommendations for the 19th Levee District Cooperative Endeavor Agreement.

Yeas: Mr. Arnold Murrell, Mr. Winston Roberts, and Mr. Johnny Jamison

Nays: Mr. Mike Merrell and Mr. Roy Edwards

Motion carried.

The jurors were presented photos and an invoice regarding sewage issues that a customer had causing water/sewage to back up into their pipes and home. After reviewing all information, it appears that the parish sewage system did not cause the pipe to back up. No motion was made to reimburse Mr. Evan Blake.

Motion by Mr. Cephas Bowie, Jr., seconded by Mr. Brandon DuBois to replace Mr. Graham Hendricks with Ms. Brenda Vallee on the Hospital District #1 Board. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Johnny Jamison, seconded by Mr. Brandon DuBois to adopt Resolution 15-2024; JB Fralick Road. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 15-2024; JB FRALICK ROAD

WHEREAS, the Grant Parish Police Jury is requesting a private drive within Grant Parish be officially named JB Fralick Road and added to the E-911 system to assist EMS in finding specific residents, and

WHEREAS, the said private drive is described as follows: Located on Fairfield Road approximately one half (0.5) mile South of WD Davidson Road and HL Newton Road, and 0.1 mile North of Newton Road with the GPS Coordinates of LAT: 31.578710 LON: -92.598088, and

WHEREAS, residents have requested that this drive remain private, to be named JB Fralick Road, and be assigned new addresses; and

WHEREAS, the Grant Parish Police Jury finds no duplication of the proposed name, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Grant Parish Police Jury adopts this resolution naming the private road described herein "JB Fralick Road;" and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Grant Parish Police Jury shall notify the following officials of this private drive being named: Grant Parish Emergency Management, Grant Parish Sheriff's Office, Acadian Ambulance, and the Grant Parish Volunteer Fire Districts #1 and #3.

Passed, approved, and adopted this 11th day of July, 2024.

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

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

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 July, 2024.

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

Jurors discussed allowing Starfish Ministries to use the Grant Parish Civic Center to host a fundraiser for local foster children and a school supply drive for free or discounted rate. It was agreed that they do outstanding work and it is not only greatly appreciated but greatly needed as well but ultimately decided that they would still need to pay the full price as all other non-profit organizations do.

Motion by Mr. Mike Merrell, seconded by Mr. Winston Roberts to use Capital Improvement Funds for hot mix from District #7 for Dyson Creek Road. Motion carried.

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

Motion by Mr. Johnny Jamison, seconded by Mr. Brandon DuBois to pay bills as funds become available. Motion carried.

Mr. Roy Edwards advised the jury that Red Hill Waterworks has water lines that run parallel to some of the lines from Consolidated Gas through a hardwood bottom that has grown up so much that neither entity can access their lines. Red Hill Waterworks would like to contract a mulcher to have the area cleared and has requested the Consolidated Gas Department pay half of the cost. Red Hill will get estimates to present to the jury at the regular August meeting.

Mr. Brandon Dubois updated the jury on the acquisition of the dump site on S. Hargis. The maintenance department will be clearing some trees and other tasks to move all dumpsters and improve the area.

Mr. Mark Ball advised all other jurors that the LDWF has announced another draw down of Iatt Lake, SWYFT Fiber is on track installing fiber internet throughout the parish and should be able to offer service by the end of this year, PILT funds have been received for 2024 but not severance taxes, there is a meeting with the LANG at the Grant Parish Firing Range site on July 18th at 12:30, and gutters need to be replaced along with some ceiling tiles at the Civic Center for insurance purposes.

Motion by Mr. Arnold Murrell, seconded by Mr. Brandon DuBois to adjourn. Motion carried.

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