

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, November 14, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.

The following members were present:

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

The following members were absent:

None

Motion by Mr. Arnold Murrell, seconded by Mr. Brandon DuBois to accept the minutes of the last meeting as published in the Official Journal. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Mr. Arnold Murrell, seconded by Mr. Mike Merrell to open the agenda to public comment. Motion carried unanimously.

-Mr. Keith Maxwell, Grant Parish Assessor, addressed the jury regarding the state's proposed tax reform. The jury is waiting for an opinion from the Police Jury Association of Louisiana that will be considered as well.

Mr. Colby Delahoussaye of HUB International discussed the newly implemented retiree Medicare Supplemental Plan and employee healthcare insurance renewal quotes for 2025. After the factors of health insurance increasing by 3.5%, vision and dental decreasing 10%, and the new retiree plan, the jury will have a savings of \$26, 950.46.

Motion by Mr. Brandon DuBois, seconded by Mr. Johnny Jamison to move the renewal date on the jury's auto policy from 3/1/25 to 4/12/25 to coincide with property and equipment policies. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Rhett Desselle, PE, CFM, Pan American Engineers, discussed the cost estimate to remove and replace cracked section of Lonnie's Landing. At the request of the Police Jury, a core sample will be taken of the road by Geotechnical Testing Laboratory, Inc. and results will be brought back to the jury.

Mr. Mark Ball, President, Grant Parish Police Jury, addressed the Grant Parish Library Board of Control and the Library Director reiterating matters discussed during the Personnel Committee Meeting. They have agreed to the requests of the jury to adhere to the following:

- 1) Notifying the public of all meetings by posting the agenda on the door of the main office, on the website, and on Facebook at least 24 hours in advance
- 2) Keep meeting minutes including the date, time, and place of the meeting, which members are present or absent, the substance of all matters decided, votes taken including if a member of the public body chooses to abstain from voting on a matter
- 3) Publishing meeting minutes of every meeting in the official parish journal, and on their website and Facebook within ten days of minutes being published
- 4) Maintain the copy of those minutes on the website for at least three months after posting
- 5) Keep audio recordings of meetings
- 6) All employees of the Grant Parish Library are to clock in and out by means of having a thumbprint time clock installed at all branches throughout the parish at the expense of the Grant Parish Library (30 days to implement)
- 7) Set and publish a 12 month meeting schedule in the Official Journal and on the website

The item to discuss recommendations to represent Pollock on the Grant Parish Housing Authority Board has been deferred to the December meeting agenda.

Motion by Mr. Roy Edwards, seconded by Mr. Brandon DuBois to amend the agenda to add a motion to appoint Mr. Johnny Jamison to the Grant Parish Firing Range Committee in place of the late Mr. Mike Burns. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Mr. Arnold Murrell, seconded by Mr. Brandon DuBois to appoint Mr. Johnny Jamison to the Grant Parish Firing Range Committee in place of the late Mr. Mike Burns. Motion carried unanimously.

Jurors discussed whether the police jury should reimburse Mr. Jay Swazey for claim of damage to truck paint by rocks from mower. No motion was made for approval.

Motion to approve quote to convert courthouse toilets to tank type. No motion was made for approval.

Motion by Mr. Cephas Bowie, Jr., seconded by Mr. Roy Edwards to approve the quote from Bit Happens for the Health Unit camera system. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Mr. Cephas Bowie, Jr., seconded by Mr. Winston Roberts to approve the quote from Bit Happens for the LSU Ag Extension Office camera system. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Mark Ball discussed installing cameras at the Grant Parish Firing Range and thanked the Grant Parish Sheriff's Office for the donation of their old cameras.

Motion by Mr. Roy Edwards, seconded by Mr. Mike Merrell to use Capital Improvement funds from District 8 for Buck Grandstaff Road improvements. Motion carried unanimously.

The jury discussed options for collection of non-household garbage at the dumpster sites and agreed that they are open to discussing ideas that would improve the current system.

Mr. Brandon DuBois discussed placing bids for materials for 2025. Item was deferred to the Finance Committee for discussion and recommendations.

Motion to approve cost of living increases for Grant Parish Police Jury employees has been deferred to the Finance Committee for discussion and recommendations.

Motion to increase superintendent pay has been deferred to the Finance Committee for discussion and recommendations.

Motion to approve merit-based pay increases has been deferred to the Finance Committee for discussion and recommendations.

The jury discussed advertising for a new garbage truck in light of the recent accident.

Motion by Mr. Johnny Jamison, seconded by Mr. Winston Roberts to amend the agenda to include a motion to advertise for bids on a front load garbage truck. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Mr. Brandon DuBois, seconded by Mr. Roy Edwards to advertise for bids on a front load garbage truck. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Cody Gongre, Grant Parish Roads Superintendent, updated the jury on projects from the Landfill and Roads departments. He advised that at this time, the asphalt plant is down and when they resume operations, he will let them know.

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

Mr. Mike Merrell requested an update regarding the new light and camera system at the Bentley intersection and was informed that we are still awaiting a signed CEA from the state.

Mr. Cephas Bowie Jr. informed the jury that he has been in contact with the DOTD and it should not be much longer before the funds are available from the highway transfers.

Mr. Winston Roberts thanked the Library Board and the Director for attending the meeting and stated that he is looking forward to moving forward in a positive relationship with the library board and Mr. Johnny Jamison reiterated his statement.

Mr. Johnny Jamison requested the Building Committee meet and discuss the library installing lights on their building for the parking lot.

Motion by Mr. Johnny Jamison, seconded by Mr. Arnold Murrell to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

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