

**STATE OF LOUISIANA
PARISH OF WINN
JUNE 16, 2025**

The Police Jury of the Parish of Winn, State of Louisiana, met in Regular Session at its meeting place, the Police Jury Meeting Room of the Parish Courthouse, 119 West Main Street, Winnfield, Louisiana, on Monday, June 16, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. (CST), pursuant to the provisions of a written notice given each and every member thereof, and duly posted in the manner required by law. (Note: President does not vote unless a tie)

There were present: Mr. Frank McLaren-President, Vice President Deionne Carpenter, Mr. Phillip Evans, Mr. Darrell Franks, Mr. Stanley Garrett and Mr. Kyle Potts.

There were absent: Mr. Author Robinson. Note: Appeared at 5:19 p.m.

Legal Counsel: Mr. Chris Nevils.

President Frank McLaren called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

Invocation was delivered by Vice President Deionne Carpenter. The Pledge was led by Mr. Kyle Potts.

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS:

None.

Motion by Mr. Darrell Franks to adopt the agenda. Second by Mr. Kyle Pottss. No discussion. Vote taken: 5 yeas. 0 nays. 1 absent. 1 abstained. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Kyle Potts to adopt the minutes of May 19, 2025-Regular Meeting. Second by Mr. Phillip Evans. No discussion. Vote taken: 5 yeas. 0 nays. 1 absent. 1 abstained. Motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & COMMENTS:

President McLaren calls for any public comments or announcements.

Mr. Perry Holmes, Road Superintendent is present to give a road update. A road maintenance report is in each Jurors packet. Mr. Holmes states that hopefully the rain prediction is going down in the next few days. They are continuing to grade when they can. They have finished the culverts on Aunt Marie's Road and are starting the replace the culverts on L. Sullivan as both these roads are in the Capital Outlay list. The ditches are cleaned at Sikes Town Hall and they will finish the rock project when their pipe gets put in. He adds that work on Dees Street and the Winnfield High School is still not complete but hopefully by the end of the week will be complete. Mr. Holmes states that the hot mix project on Eugene Garrett looks good and the next hot mix project is Rufus Long Road. He is waiting on a sweeper to come in. Fema projects are complete on Braxton and Brewer roads but that project is held up on other roads pending time extension from Fema.

Mr. Paul Hodnett, Assistant Road Superintendent is present this evening to give a road update. Mr. Hodnett states that a tractor is on Mill Creek area roads from Hwy 505 to Hwy 126. The other tractor is broke down. They are waiting on parts for it. The side boom is in the Jordan Hill area noting that the rain has put a damper on grass cutting. They are pothole patching as needed until a truck driver can be hired.

GUESTS:

Mr. Chris Nevils, Winn Parish District Attorney addresses the Jury on his audit report. He states that this is his 18th filed audit report with the Louisiana Legislature, zero

financial findings. He notes the Jury has always worked well with his office and provides support that he needs, as mandated by law. He has decreased expenses last year by \$97,087 due to eliminating some positions and running a lean operation. He appreciates the Jury adequately funding his office and at the same time he realizes that every nickel that is spent on the DA's office could be spent somewhere else.

Mr. Matthew McKee, Community Liaison for Speaker Mike Johnson was scheduled to be here to introduce himself to the Jury but he is not here.

Mr. Kane Finkbeiner, Aquatic Plant Control Biologist Manager for the northern half of the State is present along with co-worker Wesley Maddox a Supervisor for the same region to discuss Saline Lake. Mr. Finkbeiner gives a brief update and overview noting that they use all tools available to control salvinia which is still a problem. The first thing they do is use chemical control by spraying herbicides as often as possible. One crew is dedicated exclusively to Saline Lake and has spent time since late April and early May, weather permitting. In the past, they have had to contract applicators out under extreme circumstances. They have treated about 500 to 600 acres so far this year. Another control maintenance is biological control which is stock weevils that feed on the plant which damages the salvinia. That control has gone on for about 10 years with some success and seems to have a lot of impact. The last thing they do is mechanical control. You see at some of the boat ramps; we have oil spill control boom which also controls aquatic plants so people are able to launch their boats. They have another control boom placed along the pipeline to cut off the salvinia. It does create log jams. They do a lot of spraying in these areas to keep boat rows open. The last control mechanism is drawdowns which is the most contemptuous. They institute drawdowns almost annually on Saline Lake because all the other tools aren't enough to control the problem. They like to keep a proactive approach. The lake is much better than it has been, especially compared to 10 years ago. They have been draining the lake in June every year but due to the condition of the lake, this year they recommend opening the gates July 7th through October 1st so water can return for duck hunting. Mr. Stanley Garrett asks if they can use a skidder to cut lanes. Mr. Finkbeiner states that they did get a permit from the Corp of U.S. Engineers to thin 4,000 acres of Saline Lake. What they ran into on the feasibility of it when they tried to contract contractors to apply that it was not economically feasible. It was in the millions of dollars to do any kind of removal. At 5:19 p.m., Juror Author Robinson is present asks about spraying the lake with helicopters. Mr. Finkbeiner states that they actually have contract helicopters but what they run into is the heavy tree density so that a small percentage lands on the plants as there is a lot of interception so most herbicide just smalls on the trees. President thanks Mr. Finkbeiner for coming and speaking to the Jury.

Mr. Taylor Spangler, Project Manager with Swyft Fiber is here to discuss laying fiber in Winn Parish. Mr. Spangler is present along with coworkers Greg and Jason Williams. Mr. Spangler states that should be starting within the next couple of weeks. He adds that this project is State funded designed to get internet to rural parts of the Parish. He notes he has added a map of routes to Mrs. Tyler. Mrs. Tyler states that she has sent him the Ordinances on permitting and boring along with the contact information of all Mayors and Water Systems. He adds that Swyft is very open to get with the Police Jury to work together on this project. They realize accidents and lines will be hit but hopefully it will be kept to a minimum. The lines will be bored at 10 ft deep. Mr. Glen and Mr. Jason Williams each address the Jury and note they are excited to be working here in Winn Parish.

Mr. Henry Shuler, Engineer and owner of Shuler Consulting Company is present to discuss several projects. The first item is the Hazard Mitigation Generator Project. Mr. Shuler lists the generators in this project. Village of Dodson 60kw at Water Well 2, Tannehill Water Station 70kw, City of Winnfield 125 kw at Main Water Plant with the existing generator being moved to the Winnfield Prison Booster Station, an auto transfer switch at Winnfield Water Well 13, Village of Calvin 80 kw at Water Station, Village of Sikes 100 kw at Fire Station, Village of Sikes 150 kw at Water Treatment Plant, Wheeling Water 45 kw at Well No. 2, Wheeling Water System 45 kw at Booster Station, Winn Parish Courthouse 150 kw, Winn Parish Health Unit 100 kw and Winn Parish Road Barn 60 kw. He states that bids were opened on May 29, 2025, a bid tabulation sheet is

in each Jurors packet and he recommends awarding the bid to Hendry Electrical Services, Inc. in the amount of \$941,800.00 as they are the lowest bidder, which is about \$60,000 under budget. This is a reimbursement grant. This project will take another year before it is fully completed.

The next item of discussion is the Local Government Assistance Program (LGAP). Winn Parish has recently had two of these projects funded. One is Cole Road in the amount of \$97,308 and Mimosa Drive in the amount of \$54,054. When the contractor does Old Alexandria, we can negotiate with the contractor to do Mimosa also.

The next item of discussion is HB No. 460. In this bill are several items pertaining to Winn Parish Police Jury. The first item is \$975,000 payable out of the State General Fund (direct) to the Winn Parish Police Jury for the Winn Parish Fairgrounds Pavilion over the rodeo arena and \$500,000 for the Winn Parish Fairgrounds for water, sewer and electricity hookups. The facilities are not adequate to keep hosting events such as the Hog Dog Trials, etc. These funds are no match by the Jury. It is a 100% grant. These upgrades will benefit many events and help Winn Parish.

The next item is \$200,000 payable out of the State General Fund (direct) to the Winn Parish Police Jury for infrastructure, material, equipment and acquisitions. And, \$1,000,000 payable out of the State General Fund (direct) to the Winn Parish Police Jury for repairs to Mars Hill Church Road. Mr. Shuler notes you could also use the \$200,000 on this road to extend as these funds will only do the first half of the road. He adds that the Jury has been applying for this road on Capital Outlay for about 12 years now. These funds are a 100% grant with no match by the Jury.

As to Capital Outlay projects, Frank White is just about complete. As to Aunt Marie’s Road and L. Sullivan Road, we are just waiting on contractor Regional Construction to show up. As to Old Alexandria, we are waiting on contractor Amethyst to show up and hopefully we can add Mimosa Drive to that contract and use the LGAP funds. As to Eugene Garrett Road, we have gotten what we asked for which was to move the scope of work to the other end of the road. The Jury should receive the approval soon.

As to the Port de Luce lake project, Mr. Shuler states that project is dead because one land owner refused to even allow a study to be done on her property and said she would never sell. The State has tasked Mr. Shuler to try and save that \$7,500,000 by using the funds somewhere else. There is only a small criteria to use these funds. The only thing we were able to pitch to them is Mosley Drive. Mosley Drive goes under water several times of year. It is a huge problem as many people live on that road and it also a cut through. Mr. Shuler states he is looking into elevating the road and building a larger bridge. The hydraulics Engineer is Colleen that works for Arcadis out of Denver, Colorado. She is asking for a survey the area that goes under water. The crew is surveying that now and will get that information to her so she can do the modeling to see if this is going to solve the problem and not create other problems.

Mr. Shuler states that one more Water Sector project is getting funded where Atlanta and Wheeling Water are merging. It is about a \$3,500,000 100% grant. That project will be bidding in about 60 days.

Mr. Shuler states that most all of this money is coming because of Representative Jack McFarland. Most of these funds are in HB 460 with some in HB 2. He notes that Winn Parish will probably not see this kind of money again. He thanks Representative McFarland for getting this money for Winn and his other Districts so our tax dollars come here instead of going somewhere else.

BUSINESS:

Motion by Mrs. Deionne Carpenter to approve the monthly/weekly invoices; as follows:

General Fund	\$ 70,606.63
Road Fund	\$ 113,127.85
Health Unit	\$ 2,482.20
Sales Tax	\$ 86,111.07
Library	\$ 2,625.00
Library Weekly	\$ 11,231.82
Weekly Invoices	<u>\$ 331,273.21</u>
Grand Total	\$ 617,457.78

Report includes budget to actual comparisons in all major funds. The General Fund is showing a negative balance on the statement of Revenues and Expenditures as some items using ARPA funds and grant funds were not included in this year's original budget but will be amended or should be received soon. Report is signed by the Bill Approval Committee Mr. Frank McLaren, Mrs. Deionne Carpenter and Mr. Kyle Potts. Second by Mr. Author Robinson. Vote taken: 6 yeas. 0 nays. 0 absent. 1 abstained. Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Deionne Carpenter to appoint the Winn Parish Enterprise as the official journal of the Winn Parish Police Jury beginning July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026. Second by Mr. Phillip Evans. Vote taken: 6 yeas. 0 nays. 0 absent. 1 abstained. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Author Robinson to award the bid on the Hazard Mitigation-New Generator Installations DR 4559, Project No. 0016 to Hendry Electrical Services, Inc. in the amount of \$941,800.00. Second by Mr. Kyle Potts. Vote taken: 6 yeas. 0 nays. 0 absent. 1 abstained. Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Deionne Carpenter to enter a Cooperative Agreement between LSU Ag Center and Winn Parish Police Jury support and administer Louisiana Cooperative Units Off Campus . Second by Mr. Kyle Potts. Mrs. Tyler states that this agreement is in effect from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2030. Vote taken: 6 yeas. 0 nays. 0 absent. 1 abstained. Motion carried.

Additional Announcements & Comments:

President McLaren states that he would like to discuss Ordinance #0001 of 1998, abusive use of Parish roads prohibited, 20 ton vehicles prohibited except by permit, rules and regulations for logging contractors and any permitted trucks. He states that seems like in the last couple of years that loggers are hauling during or after a rain. He would like to make them aware as to the Ordinance that the Jury has and to enforce it better. Discussion was had by the Jury and Mr. Holmes. The Ordinance does not say just loggers, it says commercial hauling trucks. It is stated that Weyerhaeuser and some loggers do supply rock on the roads. Further discussion was had. Garbage trucks are exempt as they provide a service. President McLaren states that he is not just singling out the loggers as that is what feeds us but on the other hand we have to be able to keep our roads passable for the residents in the Parish. He adds if we can get a happy median to work together, it would be helpful. All contractors need to get a permit.

Vice President Carpenter states she has been contacted by a group wanting to have a trail ride with horses and ATV's on Cedar Drive. She adds that they weren't aware that they couldn't ride ATC's on Parish roads. President McLaren states that Mr. Nevils is going to look into that to see where the Jury stands on this as is a State law prohibiting ATV's from being on roads.

Mrs. Karen Tyler, Secretary/Treasurer notes that enclosed in the Jury packets is the Winn Parish Fire District #3 minutes of May 20, 2025.

On motion of Mr. Darrell Franks and second by Mrs. Deionne Carpenter, President McLaren declared the meeting adjourned at 6:09 p.m.

MR. FRANK MCLAREN, PRESIDENT

ATTEST:
KAREN TYLER-SECRETARY/TREASURER