

**STATE OF LOUISIANA
PARISH OF WINN
JULY 21, 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, July 21, 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 5:13 p.m.

Legal Counsel: Mr. Chris Nevils.

President Frank McLaren called the meeting to order at 5:01 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. Phillip Evans. No discussion. Vote taken: 5 yeas. 0 nays. 1 absent. 1 abstained. Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Deionne Carpenter to adopt the minutes of June 16, 2025-Regular Meeting. Second by Mr. Kyle Potts. 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. Bob Holeman, Publisher of the Winn Parish Journal is present and addresses the Jury. He states that he ran the Winn Parish Enterprise for 25 years and the Coushatta paper for 10 years prior to that. He adds that he was happily retired when a friend of his talked him into getting involved with the Winn Parish Journal. June the 1st marked 2 years. He has enjoyed working with the Community and the Jury but is now ready to retire again as he wants to work on some personal projects. He is handing the job over to capable hands, Mrs. Kaycie Kile, who has been with the Journal for 4 years running the technology and is dedicated to the Community. Mr. Holeman thanks the Jury for allowing him to serve this Community and asks the Jury to support Mrs. Kile.

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 grading is going fine in between the rainy weather, trying to pull ditches and back slope when they can. He is still having some issues with limbs breaking glass on the bush hog. They are running one tractor at a time this year as every time you turn around one of the tractors is broke down. We may have to look at as costs for repairs are excessive. The bid Kenworth truck has busted a rear end which is under warranty but the parts are on order. The ditch at the Winnfield High School has been cleaned out and some of the drains are still being cleaned. The Village of Sikes Resolution at the Town Hall is complete but ran into another issue on Caney Street with the turnaround. Mr. Holmes notes there are too many property lines where the turnaround was requested. He states the Mayor of Sikes is working on getting the problem resolved and will contact Mr. Holmes then to look at it.

Mr. Holmes states that they had a Worker's Comp agent with Summitt visit last week for our Worker's Comp insurance. He was very pleased with the new doors, outside lighting, exhaust fans on the building, stickers that have been installed. There are some minor suggestions from Mr. Smith to make a few more improvements. He adds that Mechanic Robert Rhymes is retiring and his last day is July 31, 2025.

At 5/13 p.m., Juror Author Robinson now present

President McLaren states that the Winn Parish Police Jury is hereby notifying its citizens that a public hearing will be held at 5:000 p.m. on July 21, 2025 at the Winn Parish Police Jury Office located at 119 W. Main St. #102, Winnfield, Louisiana. The purpose of the public hearing will be to inform the public on the completed FY 2022 LCDBG HVAC Program. The Winn Parish Police Jury will conduct a seminar during the public hearing to better inform its citizens of the Fair Housing program as a method of continually informing the public of Fair Housing in the Parish. Those interested in submitting written comments, particularly those residents of slums and blighted areas, may do so to: Frank McLaren, President, Winn Parish Police Jury, P. O. Drawer 951, Winnfield, Louisiana 71483-0951. Any negative comments received will be forwarded to the State of Louisiana, Division of Administration. All residents, particularly low and moderate income persons and residents of slum and blighted areas of the Parish are encouraged to attend this meeting. Accommodations will be made for persons with disabilities and non-English speaking persons provided those persons request said accommodations 3 days prior to the public hearing by calling 318-628-5824. The Parish can be reached by telecommunications devices for the deaf through the Louisiana Relay Service at 1-800-367-8939 (TDD). The Winn Parish Police Jury is an equal opportunity employer. This was published in the official journal of the Jury, Winn Parish Enterprise on July 2, 2025. No comments or complaints were received.

GUESTS:

Miss. Destini Kirkland, Community Disaster Program Specialist with Red Cross is present. Miss Kirkland introduces herself and would like to share what Red Cross does for Winn Parish. She notes she is the Specialist for Cenla and covers 10 Parishes. She recaps what has been happening in 2025 in Winn Parish. She states that they have volunteers that respond to home fires across the State called the Disaster Action Team. In 2025, they did have about 10 homes here in Winn Parish. They offer financial assistance as well as recovery needs to get them back on their feet. Thankfully, we have not had any storm damage here in the Parish so far but are ready if needed. They support the warming center at the Grove Street Recreation Center to provide blankets, comfort kits and water. In cooperation with OEP Director Cindy Tilton, we completed 4 shelter surveys here in Winn Parish so in the event of a storm or emergency these buildings could be used. They are Winnfield Primary, Winnfield Middle School, Winnfield High School and Dodson High School. They also partner with the Winnfield City and Winn Parish Fire Departments on giving smoke alarms to residents. 15 homes were made safer with about 45 alarms installed. Also, in coordination with the City of Winnfield and Cindy Tilton they conducted a shelter training. They also paired with the Libraries to conduct Pedro presentations. Preparing with Pedro teaches elementary children how to respond to disasters such as tornadoes, extreme heat and fire safety at all four Libraries. Miss Kirkland leaves some reading materials about how to get involved with you community and do download their app to get updated information.

Mr. Bubba Kirkland, Zone 4 Leader for Southern Baptist Convention Disaster Relief is present and addresses the Jury. He leaves some brochures and cards that tell about the Louisiana Baptists. He notes that Southern Baptists make up 42 State Conventions. He states that they are a large, quiet army that is available during manmade or natural disasters. He adds that they have shower units, laundry units, chainsaws, generators, chaplains, command units, protection units, feeding units and communication equipment. He wants to let the Jury know that they are here and available during disasters. They work closely with the OEP's and churches. He notes they are the 3rd largest relief organization in the United States, third to Red Cross and Salvation Army. It is strictly a volunteer organization that works through churches. He adds that they are always

looking for volunteers and church groups. Mr. Robinson thanks them for coming into Winn Parish during Hurricane Laura.

Mr. Nicholas Fowlkes, Auditor with Kohlder, Slaven & Company, is present to discuss and present the 2024 audit of the Jury. Mr. Fowlkes states that all the financials were audited along with the internal controls. The audit is clean with all monies being spent in accordance with State and Federal law. Management is responsible to oversee these funds. There are no issues with the way funds were expended. As a result of the audit, there are no audit findings. President McLaren thanks the administrative staff for the great work.

Mr. Matthew McKee, Community Liaison for Speaker Mike Johnson. Mr. McKee is present and would like to introduce himself to the Jury. He wants to let everyone that he is available if we need help with any issues. He notes we will have a call with elected official on August 7th. He notes he will send the information to Mrs. Tyler. The Jury thanks Mr. McKee for coming and look forward to working with him.

BUSINESS:

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

General Fund	\$ 105,145.45
Road Fund	\$ 96,145.11
Health Unit	\$ 17,812.63
Sales Tax	\$ 203,502.57
Library	\$ 39,554.21
Library Weekly	\$ 26,157.94
Weekly Invoices	<u>\$ 213,194.40</u>
Grand Total	\$ 701,512.31

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. Darrell Franks. Vote taken: 6 yeas. 0 nays. 0 absent. 1 abstained. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Kyle Potts to adopt a Resolution to assist the Village of Sikes by bush hogging with the side boom for Caney Street and Second Street. Second by Mr. Author Robinson. Vote taken: 6 yeas. 0 nays. 0 absent. 1 abstained. Motion carried.

(Resolution #012 of 2025 attached thereto and made a part of these minutes)

Motion by Mr. Stanley Garrett to adopt a Resolution to assist the Winn Parish School Board with asphalt repairs of the driveway entering the Winnfield Middle School. Second by Mr. Darrell Franks. Vote taken: 6 yeas. 0 nays. 0 absent. 1 abstained. Motion carried.

(Resolution #013 of 2025 attached thereto and made a part of these minutes)

Additional Announcements & Comments:

Mr. Author Robinson states that as of August 1st, he will be retiring from the logging woods. He is looking forward to devoting more time to the Jury.

Mrs. Karen Tyler, Secretary/Treasurer notes that enclosed in the Jury packets is the Winn Parish Communications District minutes of June 17, 2025.

On motion of Mr. Darrell Franks and second by Mr. Phillip Evans, President McLaren declared the meeting adjourned at 5:39 p.m.

MR. FRANK MCLAREN, PRESIDENT

ATTEST: _____
KAREN TYLER-SECRETARY/TREASURER