

**STATE OF LOUISIANA
PARISH OF WINN
JANUARY 20, 2026**

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 Tuesday, January 20, 2026 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, Mrs. Deionne Carpenter-Vice President, Mr. Phillip Evans, Mr. Stanley Garrett, Mr. Author Robinson, Mr. Darrell Franks and Mr. Kyle Potts.

There were absent: None.

Legal Counsel: Mr. Chris Nevils

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

Invocation was delivered by Mr. Darrell Franks. The Pledge was led by Mrs. Deionne Carpenter.

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS:

None.

Motion by Mr. Kyle Potts to adopt the agenda. Second by Mr. Darrell Franks. No discussion. Vote taken: 6 yeas. 0 nays. 0 absent. 1 abstained. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Author Robinson to adopt the minutes of December 15, 2025-Public Hearing, December 15, 2025-Regular Meeting and January 7, 2026-Special Called Meeting. Second by Mr. Phillip Evans. No discussion. Vote taken: 6 yeas. 0 nays. 0 absent. 1 abstained. Motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & COMMENTS:

President McLaren calls for any public comments or announcements.

Mr. Darrell Franks introduces Miss Lily Westbrook from Columbia to the Jury. Miss Westbrook states she is the Louisiana Forest Festival Queen. She comes from a 4th generation logging family, is age 21 and college student in Monroe. She states that being the Louisiana Forest Festival Queen has been a dream of hers and she is thankful she has achieved this goal. She enjoys celebrating all the men and women in the industry. During her reign, Miss Westbrook states she has taught over 700 kids about the forestry industry and advocates for safety. She reminds everyone about the Louisiana Forest Festival held every 4th weekend in April right here in Winnfield at the Winn Parish Fair Grounds. She adds that the Forest Festival is the only place in the South that has a lumberjack show right here in our backyard. She states she has enjoyed meeting so many people during her reign as Queen. President McLaren states that we really do need to support the Festival and how important it is to Winnfield.

Mr. Perry Holmes, Road Superintendent is present to give a road update. A road maintenance report is in each Jurors packet. He notes that all 4 graders are running at this time. Mr. Holmes states that they have begun some of their Rac Projects, noting the project on Eugene Garrett Road should be completed tomorrow and then should be able to start on Little Mail Route with 57's stone working back this way. He notes he should be meeting with Tara at the Forestry office next week for planning on the South end of Gum Springs Road project. He states that we have received the 25% match money on fema projects on the roads previously worked on. He is getting his prices together to get this started. He notes that Aunt Marie's Road is looking good and they are milling on L.

Sullivan now. Mr. Holmes states that after the Harrisonburg Bridge was closed, the road crew made repairs to get the bridge back open. The project should be letting sometime in June. After that, the bridge will be closed for a while once it gets under contract. He also notes that the water damage at the barn has all been repaired now.

Mr. Paul Hodnett, Assistant Road Superintendent is present to give his road update. Mr. Hodnett states that the grass cutting tractors are being maintained and almost ready for grass cutting in the Spring. The side boom is in the Wheeling area and pot hole patching is slim to none at this time.

GUESTS:

None.

BUSINESS:

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

General Fund	\$ 76,482.28
Road Fund	\$ 57,559.96
Health Unit	\$ 131.82
Sales Tax	\$90,384.08
Library	\$ 0.00
Weekly Invoices	<u>\$736,936.06</u>
Grand Total	\$961,504.20

Report includes budget to actual comparisons in all major funds. Report is signed by the Bill Approval Committee Mr. Frank McLaren, Mrs. Deionne Carpenter and Mr. Kyle Potts. Second by Mr. Kyle Potts. Vote taken: 6 yeas. 0 nays. 0 absent. 1 abstained. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Stanley Garrett to assist the Village of Calvin with pot hole patching Front Street, Poole Street and requesting a load of dirt at the McDade Park. Second by Mr. Kyle Potts. Vote taken: 6 yeas. 0 nays. 0 absent. 1 abstained. Motion carried.

(Resolution #001 of 2026 attached thereto and made a part of these minutes)

Motion by Mr. Phillip Evans to continue the lease on LT6 tractor/truck for 12 months at \$2,075 per month with option to buy out at less than \$60,000. Second by Mr. Author Robinson. Vote taken: 6 yeas. 0 nays. 1 absent. 1 abstained. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Kyle Potts to vacate and set aside the motion for authorization to transfer opioid funds to the Judge and District Attorney voted on December 18, 2023. Second by Mrs. Deionne Carpenter. Vote taken: 6 yeas. 0 nays. 0 absent. 1 abstained. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Author Robinson to approve distribution of opioid settlement funds to the Winn Parish District Attorney’s office in the amount of \$100,000 for opioid interdiction, prosecution and related matters. Second by Mr. Darrell Franks. Vote taken: 6 yeas. 0 nays. 0 absent. 1 abstained. Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Deionne Carpenter to approve distribution of opioid settlement funds to the 8th Judicial District Court in Winn Parish in the amount of \$10,000 for pretrial administration of defendant’s rehabilitative care, for purchasing and processing drug tests and for training staff. Second by Mr. Kyle Potts. Vote taken: 6 yeas. 0 nays. 0 absent. 1 abstained. Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Deionne Carpenter to approve the amended 2025 Budget and proposed 2026 Budget of the North La. Crime Lab Commission. Second by Mr. Phillip Evans. Vote taken: 6 yeas. 0 nays. 0 absent. 1 abstained. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Kyle Potts to reappoint Mrs. Karen Tyler as Secretary/Treasurer for a two year term. Second by Mr. Author Robinson. President McLaren states that she does a good job and we don't need to lose her or we would all be lost. Vote taken: 6 yeas. 0 nays. 0 absent. 1 abstained. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Author Robinson to renew the Jury's Health Care with Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Louisiana effective February 1, 2026. Second by Mr. Darrell Franks. Vote taken: 6 yeas. 0 nays. 0 absent. 0 abstained. Motion carried.

Nominations for President of the Winn Parish Police Jury for 2026:

Mr. Darrell Franks nominates Mr. Frank McLaren. Second by Mr. Author Robinson. No other nominations. Mrs. Deionne Carpenter moves to close nominations. Vote taken: 6 yeas. 0 nays. 1 absent. 1 abstained. Motion carried. President McLaren thanks the Jury for their continued support and hopes they have another successful year.

Nominations for Vice President of the Winn Parish Police Jury for 2026:

Mr. Author Robinson nominates Mrs. Deionne Carpenter. Second by Mr. Phillip Evans. No other nominations. Mr. Author Robinson moves to close nominations. Vote taken: 6 yeas. 0 nays. 0 absent. 1 abstained. Motion carried. Vice President Carpenter thanks the Jury for their continued support.

Additional Announcements & Comments:

Mrs. Tyler states that Kristy Fuentes, with our debris contractor DRC called today to touch base and said her company is available if we have any problems or issues with debris during the winter storm. They have the State Contract with DOTD and will be in the area close by, if needed.

As to the Port de Luce Project, Mrs. Tyler states that due to project feasibility challenges and budgetary constraints with the original and alternatives, there is no clear path forward. The State suspends the Project.

She states she does have good news, on the Hazard Mitigation Grant Project, the contractor has started receiving some of the generators so this project should start moving along soon to get these installed.

Mrs. Tyler states that the State would like to move the Dept. of Motor Vehicles office to its own building. She and the State representative have located a building and are in negotiations with the building owner. The Jury would have to pay rent using the funds they receive from the State for having the DMV here. The State has also agreed to make this office a reinstatement office which should bring in more revenues and be more convenient for the people so they don't have to go out of town. She asks the Jury to be thinking on this to see how they feel about it. Further discussion by the Jury and Mrs. Tyler.

A Winter Weather update is set for Thursday January 22, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. for all entities here in the Jury room to go over what the threat will be so we can be prepared.

As to the Feasibility Study, from Engineer Scott Roe stated that they are finishing the TIC Estimate this week and will be meeting with a Financial Company next week to put all the numbers in their system to create the Financial Model for the project. Once we get that completed, I will schedule a time to present the findings to the Industrial Board. I am expecting to be able to make that happen around the 2nd week of February. At this time, they have completed the 3-D Model of the site, the building, the equipment and have coordinated with WATCO CP/KC on Railroad availability to ship the product from Winnfield to a switching station in Gibsland, La. At this point, the end user will coordinate with CP/KC or UP and which Port on the West Coast the pellets will be shipped to.

Mrs. Tyler states it is time to apply for the CWEF and LGAP grants so Mr. Shuler's office would like to hear of any projects as the deadline is coming up in February.

On motion of Mr. Darrell Franks and second by Mr. Author Robinson, President McLaren declared the meeting adjourned at 5:42 p.m.

MR. FRANK MCLAREN, PRESIDENT

ATTEST: _____
KAREN TYLER-SECRETARY/TREASURER