



POLICE JURY REGULAR MEETING

Lincoln Parish Police Jury

Tuesday, November 14, 2023 at 7:00 PM

Police Jury Meeting Room | 100 West Texas Avenue, Floor Three,
Ruston, LA 71270

AGENDA

In compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, individuals needing special accommodations during this meeting should notify the Lincoln Parish Police Jury at 318-513-6200 at least three working days before the meeting.

Call to Order

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance- Ms. Annette Straughter

Approval of Agenda

Public Comments on Agenda Items

Minutes of Prior Meeting

- [1.](#) October 9, 2023- Regular Meeting
- [2.](#) November 2, 2023- Special Meeting

Committee Reports

3. Health and Welfare
4. Finance
5. Solid Waste

Budget

6. Humanitarian Enterprises of Lincoln Parish 2023 Amended Budget
7. Humanitarian Enterprises of Lincoln Parish 2024 Proposed Budget
8. Lincoln Parish Police Jury 2023 Amended Budget
9. Lincoln Parish Police Jury 2024 Proposed Budget
10. Schedule Public Hearing (December 12, 2023 at 7:00 PM)

New Business

- [11.](#) Introduction of Ordinance for Sale of Adjudicated Property- Parcel No. 26203839190
- [12.](#) Authorizing Assignment of Mineral Leases #13594 and #10520 From Comstock Resources, Inc. to Dixie Lake Royalty, LLC (56%) and Sabine Holdings, LP (44%)
- [13.](#) Consider, And Take Action If Necessary, Request For Industrial Tax Exemption From Weyerhaeuser NR Company

Budget Reports- Mr. Michael Sutton, Treasurer

Other Business and Reports

[14.](#)

Public Comments

Adjournment

TO: Lincoln Parish Police Jury
FROM: Health and Welfare Committee
SUBJECT: Committee Report

The Health and Welfare Committee of the Lincoln Parish Police Jury met in the Police Jury Meeting Room, 100 West Texas Avenue, Monday, October 9, 2023, at 9:30 a.m. Present were: Annette Straughter, Chair, Milton Melton, and Sharyon Mayfield

Absent: Hazel Hunter and Matt Pullin

Annette Straughter called the meeting to order and Milton Melton delivered the invocation.

Sharyon Mayfield offered a motion, seconded by Milton Melton, to approve the agenda. The motion carried with the following votes:

YEAS: Melton, Mayfield, and Straughter

Chair Straughter called for Public Comments on Agenda Items. There were none.

Under New Business, Architect Michael Walpole introduced Mr. Jerry Brasher with Lincoln Builders, Inc., who reviewed current pricing modules on construction of the Health Hub. Due to concerns over potentially exceeding available project funding, it was decided that the proposed sewer building would be priced as an additive alternate.

The next item on the agenda was to consider, and take action if necessary, recommendation of award for the Vernon Street Sewer Project. Paul Riley, Project Engineer, recommended awarding the project to Ashton Construction, LLC, in the amount of \$52,905.37. Sharyon Mayfield offered a motion, seconded by Milton Melton, to award the project to Ashton Construction, LLC. The motion carried with the following votes:

YEAS: Melton, Mayfield, and Straughter

Next item on the agenda was to consider, and take action if necessary, authorizing an access and utility servitudes grant between the Lincoln Parish Police Jury and the City of Ruston, Louisiana. After discussion, Milton Melton offered a motion, seconded by Sharyon Mayfield, for the Lincoln Parish Police Jury and the City of Ruston, Louisiana to enter into an agreement authorizing an access and utility servitudes grant. The motion carried with the following votes:

YEAS: Melton, Mayfield, and Straughter

Interim Parish Administrator Courtney Hall briefed the Committee on the next steps for the Health Hub Project. They include completing the clearing and grubbing, constructing street access to the private residence on the property, lowering the sewer line on Vernon Street, and beginning removal of excess dirt.

Ms. Straughter called for public comments. There were none.

Milton Melton offered a motion, seconded by Sharyon Mayfield, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried with the following votes:

YEAS: Melton, Mayfield, and Straughter

Courtney Hall
Interim Parish Administrator

Annette Straughter
Committee Chair

TO: Lincoln Parish Police Jury
FROM: Finance Committee
SUBJECT: Committee Report

The Finance Committee of the Lincoln Parish Police Jury met in the Police Jury Meeting Room, 100 West Texas Avenue, Tuesday, October 10, 2023, at 4:45 p.m. Present were: Skip Russell, Chair; Matt Pullin, Joe Henderson, and Sharyon Mayfield.

Absent: Hazel Hunter

Skip Russell called the meeting to order and delivered the invocation.

Sharyon Mayfield offered a motion, seconded by Joe Henderson, to approve the Agenda as presented. The motion carried with the following votes:

YEAS: Pullin, Russell, Henderson, and Mayfield

Mr. Russell called for public comment on agenda items. There were none.

The first item on the agenda was to consider salaries and wages for Police Jury employees. Joe Henderson offered a motion, seconded by Sharyon Mayfield, to recommend a 2.5% increase for permanent Police Jury employees for 2024. The motion carried with the following votes:

YEAS: Pullin, Russell, Henderson, and Mayfield

The next item on the Agenda was to consider the following 2024 budget requests:

Bayou Lake D'Arbonne Commission- Maintain current funding at \$1,800.00.

Sparta Groundwater Commission- Maintain current funding at \$2,500.00.

Council on Aging- Maintain current funding at \$5,000.00.

Lincoln Total Community Action- Fund in the amount of \$8,000.00, an increase of \$2,000.00.

LSU Extension Service- Fund in the amount of \$22,500.00, an increase of \$2,500.00.

Lincoln Parish IT- Maintain current funding at \$20,000.00.

Lincoln Parish GIS- Maintain current funding at \$25,000.00.

Registrar of Voters- Maintain current funding at \$51,000.00.

Lincoln Parish Coroner- Maintain current funding at \$60,483.00.

Third Judicial District Court- Fund in the amount of \$140,739.00, an increase of \$3,039.00.

Lincoln Parish District Attorney- Fund in the amount of \$300,000.00, an increase of \$55,340.00.

Northeast Delta Human Services Authority- Fund in the amount of \$5,000.00, an increase of \$3,470.00.

Keep Lincoln Parish Beautiful- Maintain current funding at \$7,500.00.

Lincoln Parish Health Unit- Maintain current funding at \$18,500.00.

Sharyon Mayfield offered a motion, seconded by Matt Pullin, to recommend approving all budget requests for 2024. The motion carried with the following votes:

YEAS: Pullin, Russell, and Mayfield

ABSTAIN: Henderson

Chairman Russell called for Public Comments. There were none.

Sharyon Mayfield offered a motion, seconded by Joe Henderson, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried with the following votes:

YEAS: Pullin, Russell, Henderson, and Mayfield

Courtney Hall
Interim Parish Administrator

Skip Russell
Committee Chair

TO: Lincoln Parish Police Jury
FROM: Employee Recognition Committee
SUBJECT: Committee Report

The Employee Recognition Committee of the Lincoln Parish Police Jury met in the Police Jury Meeting Room, Tuesday, October 10, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. Present were: Theresa Wyatt, Chair; Glenn Scriber, Matt Pullin, Milton Melton, and Sharyon Mayfield.

Theresa Wyatt called the meeting to order and Matt Pullin gave the Invocation.

Sharyon Mayfield offered a motion, seconded by Glenn Scriber, to approve the agenda as printed. The motion carried with the following votes:

YEAS: Wyatt, Scriber, Pullin, Melton, and Mayfield

Chair Wyatt called for Public Comments on Agenda items. There were none.

Mr. Courtney Hall, Interim Parish Administrator, indicated that financial contributions and donations projected through the end of the year would fail to meet projected expenses by several hundred dollars. Following discussion, several Jurors indicated that they would increase their contributions to meet this shortfall.

Next item on the agenda was to schedule the Christmas party and location. After discussion, Milton Melton offered a motion, seconded by Matt Pullin, to have the party on December 14, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. at Lincoln Hall. The motion carried with the following votes:

YEAS: Wyatt, Scriber, Pullin, Melton, and Mayfield

Next item on the agenda was discussion of the food service. Glenn Scriber offered a motion, seconded by Matt Pullin, to recommend hiring Ben Christmas as the caterer for the Christmas party. The motion carried with the following votes:

YEAS: Wyatt, Scriber, Pullin, Melton, and Straughter

Next item on the agenda was the discussion of the theme and entertainment. Following comments and an expression of views on the matter, Sharyon Mayfield offered a motion, seconded by Matt Pullin, to allow the Police Jury administrative staff to decide the theme and provide the entertainment. The motion carried with the following votes:

YEAS: Wyatt, Scriber, Pullin, Melton, and Mayfield

Chair Wyatt called for Public Comments from anyone in attendance. There were none.

With no other business to come before the jury, Glenn Scriber offered a motion, seconded by Matt Pullin, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried with the following votes:

YEAS: Wyatt, Scriber, Pullin, Melton, and Mayfield

Courtney Hall
Interim Parish Administrator

Theresa Wyatt
Committee Chair

TO: Lincoln Parish Police Jury

FROM: Louisiana Community Development Block Grant Committee

SUBJECT: Committee Report

The Louisiana Community Development Block Grant Committee of the Lincoln Parish Police Jury met in the Police Jury Meeting Room, Tuesday, October 10, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. Present were: Sharyon Mayfield, Chair; Glenn Scriber, Milton Melton, and Annette Straughter

ABSENT: Hazel Hunter

Sharyon Mayfield called the meeting to order and Milton Melton delivered the invocation.

Annette Straughter offered a motion, seconded by Glenn Scriber, to approve the Agenda. The motion was voted upon and carried with the following votes:

YEAS: Mayfield, Scriber, Melton, and Straughter

Sharyon Mayfield called for public comments on agenda items. There were none.

The first item on the agenda was project selection for the FY 2024/25 Louisiana Community Development Block Grant Application. Henry Shuler of Shuler Consulting Company, was present to explain the different type of projects available for funding. After discussion, Annette Straughter offered a motion, seconded by Milton Melton, to select a project to lessen rain and groundwater infiltration into the sewer system of Lincoln Parish Sewer District No. 1. The motion carried with the following votes:

YEAS: Mayfield, Scriber, Melton, and Straughter

Next item on the agenda was to authorize the submittal of an application for the project. Mr. Courtney Hall informed the committee that the application is due on November 15, 2023. After discussion, Glenn Scriber offered a motion, seconded by Milton Melton, to authorize submittal of an application for the above referenced project. The motion carried with the following votes:

YEAS: Mayfield, Scriber, Melton, and Straughter

Next item on the agenda was to authorize utilization of local funds to pay administrative and engineering costs. Mr. Hall recommended that the committee consider paying these costs in order to gain more points in the application review process. Annette Straughter offered a motion, seconded by Milton Melton, to authorize local funds to pay administrative and engineering costs. The motion carried with the following votes:

YEAS: Mayfield, Scriber, Melton, and Straughter

Next item on the agenda was the administrative and engineering consultant selection. Mr. Hall recommended selecting Shuler Consulting Company as the Engineering Consultant as well as Mrs. Laura Hartt as the Administrative Consultant. Annette Straughter offered a motion, seconded by Milton Melton, to authorize engagement of these consultants. The motion carried with the following votes:

YEAS: Mayfield, Scriber, Melton, and Straughter

Next on the agenda was to authorize a Letter of Intent for the 2024/25 LCDBG Make a Difference Program. Mrs. Laura Hartt was present for questions and comments. Ms. Hartt explained that this is a new pool of money that can be used for any eligible CDBG purpose. After discussion, Annette Straughter offered a motion, seconded by Milton Melton, to authorize Laura Hartt to draw up a Letter of Intent for the 2024/25 LCDBG Make A Difference Program. The motion carried with the following votes:

YEAS: Mayfield, Scriber, Melton, and Straughter

Chair Mayfield called for Public Comments. There were none.

There being no other business to come before the Committee, Milton Melton offered a motion, seconded by Glenn Scriber to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried with the following votes:

YEAS: Mayfield, Scriber, Melton, and Straughter

Courtney Hall
Interim Parish Administrator

Sharyon Mayfield
Committee Chair

TO: Lincoln Parish Police Jury
FROM: The Insurance Committee
SUBJECT: Committee Report

The Insurance Committee of the Lincoln Parish Police Jury met in the Police Jury Meeting Room, 100 West Texas Avenue, Tuesday, October 10, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. Present were: Skip Russell, Chair; Joe Henderson, Milton Melton, and Annette Straughter.

ABSENT: T. J. Cranford

Skip Russell called the meeting to order and delivered the invocation.

Milton Melton offered a motion, seconded by Annette Straughter, to approve the agenda. The motion carried with the following votes:

YEAS: Russell, Henderson, Melton, and Straughter

Mr. Russell called for Public Comment on agenda items. There were none.

First item of New Business on the agenda was to consider property, general liability, and automobile insurance renewals for the year 2024. Mr. Randy Graham with the Lincoln Agency, LLC was present to review proposed renewal coverages with the Committee. Mr. Graham stated that rates would stay the same for the coming year. Milton Melton offered a motion, seconded by Annette Straughter, to recommend the renewal of property, general liability and automobile insurance with the Lincoln Agency, LLC for the year 2024. The motion carried with the following votes:

YEAS: Russell, Henderson, Melton, and Straughter

Mr. Earnest Finch with Thomas and Farr Agency, Inc. was present to review the Group Health Insurance options. Mr. Finch indicated that United Healthcare, the current provider, would renew coverages with no increase in premiums and that an alternative Health Savings Account option would be available to participants. Mr. Finch also reported that dental insurance could be switched from Meritain to Guardian with no changes in benefits, and would result in a broader option of providers. After discussion, Joe Henderson offered a motion, seconded by Milton Melton, to approve renewing the Group Healthcare Insurance with United Healthcare and switching dental insurance from Meritain to Guardian for 2024. The motion carried with the following votes:

YEAS: Russell, Henderson, Melton, and Straughter

There being no other business to come before the committee, Annette Straughter offered a motion, seconded by Milton Melton, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried with the following votes:

YEAS: Russell, Henderson, Melton, and Straughter

Courtney Hall
Interim Parish Administrator

Skip Russell
Committee Chair

TO: Lincoln Parish Police Jury
FROM: Public Works Committee
SUBJECT: Committee Report

The Public Works Committee of the Lincoln Parish Police Jury met in the Police Jury Meeting Room, 100 West Texas Avenue, Tuesday, October 10, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. Present were: Logan Hunt, Chair; Theresa Wyatt, Glenn Scriber, and Matt Pullin

ABSENT: TJ Cranford

Logan Hunt called the meeting to order and Glenn Scriber delivered the invocation.

Matt Pullin offered a motion, seconded by Glenn Scriber, to approve the agenda. The motion carried with the following votes:

YEAS: Wyatt, Hunt, Scriber, and Pullin

Chairman Hunt called for Public Comments on Agenda Items. There were none.

The first item on the Agenda was to request permission to advertise for bids for gasoline, diesel fuel, gravel, and maintenance hot mix. Glenn Scriber offered a motion, seconded by Matt Pullin, to authorize the advertisement for bids. The motion carried with the following votes:

YEAS: Wyatt, Hunt, Scriber, and Pullin

The second item on the agenda was to consider and take action if necessary, purchase of approximately 73.5 acres in the amount of \$257,250.00, for the purpose of iron ore extraction, and authorize the President to execute all documents related thereto, and to refer to the finance committee for budget adjustment. Courtney Hall, Interim Parish Administrator, recommended authorizing the purchase. After further discussion, Theresa Wyatt offered a motion, seconded by Matt Pullin, to authorize the purchase of 73.5 acres, in the amount of \$257,250.00. The motion carried with the following votes:

YEAS: Wyatt, Hunt, Scriber, and Pullin

Next item on the Agenda was to consider adopting a Resolution requesting the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development to perform needed maintenance and repairs to Louisiana Hwy 818 in Lincoln Parish. Glenn Scriber offered a motion, seconded by Matt Pullin, to adopt the Resolution. The motion carried with the following votes:

YEAS: Wyatt, Hunt, Scriber, and Pullin

The next item on the agenda was to consider, and take action if necessary, engagement of the Riley Company of Louisiana, Inc. to perform a feasibility and cost estimate study related to the Longstraw Road relocation. Glenn Scriber offered a motion, seconded by Matt Pullin, to authorize the action. The motion carried with the following votes:

YEAS: Wyatt, Hunt, Scriber, and Pullin

Next item on the agenda was to declare various items as surplus property and authorize advertisement for bids.

- Item 1-2017 Dodge Ram 2500 Pickup, Min. Bid: \$10,000.00
- Item 2-2013 Kubota M5640SUD 4WD Tractor, Min. Bid: \$2,500.00
- Item 3-2011 Ford F-250 Truck, Min. Bid: \$500.00
- Item 4-2000 Ford F-250 Pickup Truck, Min. Bid: 250.00
- Item 5-2014 Dodge Ram 3500, Min. Bid: 1,500.00
- Item 6-2017 Ram Pickup Truck, Min. Bid: \$1,500.00
- Item 7-2009 Entyre Centennial Distributor Truck, Min. Bid: \$15,000.00
- Item 8-2011 Superior DT80CT 8' Sweeper, Min. Bid: \$2,000.00
- Item 9-2009 New Holland TT60A Tractor, Min. Bid: \$2,500.00
- Item 10-Bushwacker Bush Hog, Min. Bid: \$300.00
- Item 11-Bushwacker Bush Hog, Min. Bid: \$300.00

Theresa Wyatt offered a motion, seconded by Matt Pullin, to declare the listed items surplus property and authorize advertisement for bids. The motion carried with the following votes:

YEAS: Wyatt, Hunt, Scriber, and Pullin

Chairman Hunt called for Public Comments. There were none.

There being no other business to come before the Committee, nor any further public comments, Glenn Scriber offered a motion, seconded by Matt Pullin, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried with the following votes:

YEAS: Wyatt, Hunt, Scriber, and Pullin

Courtney Hall
Interim Parish Administrator

Logan Hunt
Committee Chair

The Lincoln Parish Police Jury met in regular session on Tuesday, October 10, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. in the Police Jury Meeting Room, 100 West Texas Avenue, Ruston, Louisiana. Present were: Theresa Wyatt, District One; Richard I. Durrett, District Three; Logan Hunt, District Five; Glenn Scriber, District Six; Matt Pullin, District Seven; Joe Henderson, District Nine; Milton Melton, District Ten; Sharyon Mayfield, District Eleven; and Annette Straughter, District Twelve.

ABSENT: Hazel Hunter, District Two; T.J. Cranford, District Four; and Skip Russell, District Eight

President Durrett called the meeting to order, and Milton Melton delivered the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Sharon Mayfield offered a motion, seconded by Annette Straughter, to approve the Agenda as printed. The motion carried with the following votes:

YEAS: Wyatt, Durrett, Hunt, Scriber, Pullin, Henderson, Melton, Mayfield, and Straughter

President Durrett called for Public Comments on Agenda Items. There were none

Milton Melton offered a motion, seconded by Annette Straughter, to approve the Minutes of the September 12, 2023 regular meeting. The motion carried with the following votes:

YEAS: Wyatt, Durrett, Hunt, Scriber, Pullin, Henderson, Melton, Mayfield, and Straughter

Sharyon Mayfield offered a motion, seconded by Joe Henderson, to approve the Minutes of the September 28, 2023 special meeting. The motion carried with the following votes:

YEAS: Wyatt, Durrett, Hunt, Scriber, Pullin, Henderson, Melton, Mayfield, and Straughter

Interim Parish Administrator, Courtney Hall reported that the Health and Welfare Committee met on October 9, 2023, at 9:30 a.m. and the Committee recommends:

1. Pricing the proposed sewer building as an additive alternate.
2. Awarding the Vernon Street Sewer Project to Ashton Construction, LLC in the amount of \$52,905.37.
3. Authorizing a servitudes agreement between the Lincoln Parish Police Jury and the City of Ruston, Louisiana at the new Health Hub location.

Annette Straughter offered a motion, seconded by Milton Melton, to approve the Health and Welfare Committee report. The motion carried with the following votes:

YEAS: Wyatt, Durrett, Hunt, Scriber, Pullin, Henderson, Melton, Mayfield, and Straughter

Next item on the agenda was to adopt a Resolution authorizing the President to sign an access and utility servitude grant between the Lincoln Parish Police Jury and the City of Ruston, Louisiana. Annette Straughter offered a motion, seconded by Milton Melton, to adopt the Resolution.

RESOLUTION 23-26

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Richard I. Durrett, President, be and he is hereby authorized to sign the Access and Utility Servitude Grant between the Lincoln Parish Police Jury and the City of Ruston, Louisiana.

/s/ Courtney Hall
Courtney Hall
Interim Parish Administrator

/s/ Richard I. Durrett
Richard I. Durrett
Police Jury President

The motion carried with the following votes:

YEAS: Wyatt, Durrett, Hunt, Scriber, Pullin, Henderson, Melton, Mayfield, and Straughter

Mr. Hall reported that the Finance Committee met on this day at 4:45 p.m. and the Committee recommends:

1. Approving a 2.5% salary increase for permanent Police Jury employees for 2024.
2. Approving Funding Requests as follows:
 - a. Bayou Lake D'Arbonne Commission- Maintain current funding at \$1,800.00.
 - b. Sparta Groundwater Commission- Maintain current funding at \$2,500.00.
 - c. Council on Aging- Maintain current funding at \$5,000.00.
 - d. Lincoln Total Community Action- Fund in the amount of \$8,000.00, an increase of \$2,000.00.
 - e. LSU Extension Service- Fund in the amount of \$22,500.00, an increase of \$2,500.00.
 - f. Lincoln Parish IT- Maintain current funding at \$20,000.00.
 - g. Lincoln Parish GIS- Maintain current funding at \$25,000.00.
 - h. Registrar of Voters- Maintain current funding at \$51,000.00.
 - i. Lincoln Parish Coroner- Maintain current funding at \$60,483.00.
 - j. Third Judicial District Court- Fund in the amount of \$140,739.00, an increase of \$3,039.00.
 - k. Lincoln Parish District Attorney- Fund in the amount of \$300,000.00, an increase of \$55,340.00.
 - l. Northeast Delta Human Services Authority- Fund in the amount of \$5,000.00, an increase of \$3,470.00.
 - m. Keep Lincoln Parish Beautiful- Maintain current funding at \$7,500.00.
 - n. Lincoln Parish Health Unit- Maintain current funding at \$18,500.00.

Theresa Wyatt offered a motion, seconded by Matt Pullin, to approve the Finance Committee report. The motion carried with the following votes:

YEAS: Wyatt, Durrett, Hunt, Scriber, Pullin, Melton, Mayfield, and Straughter

ABSTAINED: Henderson

Mr. Hall reported that the Employee Recognition Committee met on this day at 5:00 p.m. and the Committee recommends:

1. Holding the Christmas party on December 14, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. at Lincoln Hall.
2. That the Administrative staff will develop the theme and entertainment.
3. That Ben Christmas will cater the party.

Theresa Wyatt offered a motion, seconded by Glenn Scriber, to approve the Employee Recognition Committee report. The motion carried with the following votes:

YEAS: Wyatt, Durrett, Hunt, Scriber, Pullin, Henderson, Melton, Mayfield, and Straughter

Mr. Hall reported that the LCDBG Committee met on this day at 5:30 p.m. and the committee recommends:

1. The project selected would be to correct the inflow and infiltration of rain and groundwater into the sewer system.
2. Authorize submittal of an application for this project.
3. Authorize that the Police Jury fund administrative and engineering costs for the project.
4. Selecting Shuler Consulting as an engineering consultant.
5. Selecting Mrs. Laura Hartt as an administrative consultant.
6. Authorizing Mrs. Laura Hartt to submit a Letter of Intent for the 2024/25 Make A Different program.

Sharyon Mayfield offered a motion, seconded by Joe Henderson, to approve the LCDBG Committee report. The motion carried with the following votes:

YEAS: Wyatt, Durrett, Hunt, Scriber, Pullin, Henderson, Melton, Mayfield, and Straughter

Joe Henderson offered a motion, seconded by Milton Melton, to adopt a resolution committing to pay engineering and administration fees for LCDBG 2024/25 Public Facilities Program.

**RESOLUTION NO. 23-27 COMMITTING TO PAY ENGINEERING AND
ADMINISTRATION FEES FOR LCDBG 2024/25 PUBLIC FACILITIES PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the Lincoln Parish Police Jury ("Parish") desires to submit Louisiana Community Development Block Grant ("LCDBG") FY 2024/25 Public Facilities Application for funding (the "Application"); and,

WHEREAS, the Parish intends to use local funds to pay for administrative costs up to and including pre-agreement costs, administrative consultant fees, and any other administrative costs incurred by the Parish associated with the Application; and,

WHEREAS, the Parish intends to use local funds to pay for engineering costs up to and including pre-agreement costs, basic engineering design, surveying, project representation, construction phase services and any other engineering costs incurred by the Parish associated with the Application; and,

WHEREAS, the Parish desires to enter into an agreement with David M. Hartt, CPA, to perform all administrative consulting services associated with the Application, which includes assistance with developing the Application and performing all administrative consulting duties; and,

WHEREAS, the Parish desires to enter into an agreement with Shuler Consulting Company, to perform all engineering consulting services associated with the Application, which includes assistance with developing the Application and all engineering consulting services,

including basic engineering design, surveying, resident project representation, construction phase services and any other engineering costs incurred by the Parish.

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

1. The Parish enters into an agreement with David M. Hartt, CPA to develop and submit the Application, and thereafter to perform all administrative consulting duties following a grant award.
2. The Parish enters into an agreement with Shuler Consulting Company to assist with the development of the Application, and thereafter to perform all engineering consulting services, including basic engineering design, surveying, project representation, construction phase services and any other engineering costs incurred by the Parish, following a grant award.
3. The President is authorized to execute respective agreements with David M. Hartt, CPA and Shuler Consulting Company, and to execute and submit the Application, as well as all related documents, to be on such other terms and conditions as he shall deem advisable, and to do any and all things necessary and proper to carry out this Resolution and to fulfill its objectives and purposes.

/s/ Courtney Hall
Courtney Hall
Interim Parish Administrator

/s/ Richard I. Durrett
Richard I. Durrett
Police Jury President

The motion carried with the following votes:

YEAS: Wyatt, Durrett, Hunt, Scriber, Pullin, Henderson, Melton, Mayfield, and Straughter

Mr. Hall reported the Insurance Committee met on this day at 6:00 p.m. and the Committee recommends:

1. Approving renewals of the Property and General Liability package for 2024 through The Lincoln Agency, LLC.
2. Renewing health insurance coverage with United Healthcare with no increase in rates.
3. Switching dental insurance from Meritain to Guardian.

Matt Pullin offered a motion, seconded by Logan Hunt, to approve the Insurance Committee report. The motion carried with the following votes:

YEAS: Wyatt, Durrett, Hunt, Scriber, Pullin, Henderson, Melton, Mayfield, and Straughter

Logan Hunt reported that the Public Works Committee on this day, at 6:30 p.m. and the Committee recommends:

1. Approving the advertisement for bids for gas/diesel, gravel, and maintenance hot mix.
2. Approving the purchase of 73.5 acres in the amount of \$257,250.00.
3. Authorizing the adoption of a Resolution requesting LA DOTD to make repairs to La Hwy 818.
4. Approving engagement of Riley Company of Louisiana to perform a feasibility study and costs analysis related to Longstraw Road relocation.
5. Declaring various items as surplus property and authorize the advertisement for bids.

Logan Hunt offered a motion, seconded by Sharyon Mayfield, to approve the Public Works Committee report. The motion carried with the following votes:

YEAS: Wyatt, Durrett, Hunt, Scriber, Pullin, Henderson, Melton, Mayfield, and Straughter

Annette Straughter offered a motion, seconded by Milton Melton, to adopt a resolution requesting LA DOTD to make necessary repairs to Louisiana Hwy 818.

Resolution 23-28

WHEREAS, traffic along LA Hwy 818 between US Hwy 80 and LA Hwy 150 between the cities of Ruston and Grambling has increased significantly in recent years due to the enrollment at Louisiana Tech and Grambling State University, the increased population in the City of Ruston and Grambling area, and the creation of the Tarbutton Road Interchange; and

WHEREAS, a number of accidents have occurred in recent years along this section of roadway; and

WHEREAS, the roadway surface and underlying base of LA Hwy 818 has deteriorated to the point where regular maintenance is required to repair potholes and road defects; and

WHEREAS, the roadway edges have deteriorated to the point where drivers must travel in the opposing traffic lane to avoid road defects; and

WHEREAS, the Lincoln Parish Police Jury recognizes any temporary repairs made by DOTD.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Lincoln Parish Police Jury convened in regular session this 10th of October 2023, that it does hereby and herewith urge and request that the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development and the Local Legislative Delegation do everything in their power to provide immediate attention and repairs to ensure the safety of the motoring public.

/s/ Courtney Hall
Courtney Hall
Interim Parish Administrator

/s/ Richard I. Durrett
Richard I. Durrett
Police Jury President

The motion carried with the following votes:

YEAS: Wyatt, Durrett, Hunt, Scriber, Pullin, Henderson, Melton, Mayfield, and Straughter

The first item under New Business was to adopt an Ordinance for sale of adjudicated property parcel no. 19181000076, in the amount of \$1,949.93. Logan Hunt offered a motion, seconded by Joe Henderson, to adopt an Ordinance for sale of adjudicated property parcel no. 19181000076.

ORDINANCE NO. 473-23-0

AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE AN ACT OF SALE BY THE PARISH OF LINCOLN TO SELL ADJUDICATED PROPERTY DESCRIBED AS: PARCEL NO. 19181000076 IN ACCORDANCE WITH LA R.S. 47: 2202 T SEQ. AND TO AUTHORIZE THE LINCOLN PARISH POLICE JURY PRESIDENT TO SIGN ALL NECESSARY DOCUMENTS AND TO ADDRESS THEIR MATTERS RELATIVE THERETO

WHEREAS, the immovable property described below was adjudicated to the Parish of Lincoln on June 18, 2013, for nonpayment of taxes; and

WHEREAS, the three (3) year period for redemption provided by Art. 7, §25 of the Louisiana Constitution has elapsed, as well as the five (5) year redemption period established by Parish Ordinance No: 337-14-0 and the owner of record has failed to redeem the adjudicated property; and

WHEREAS, LA R.S. 47: 2202 *et seq.* provides that the Parish may sell adjudicated property in accordance with law after the expiration of the period for redemption; and

WHEREAS, the Parish of Lincoln has declared the property described below surplus and not needed for a public purpose and to dispose of said property in accordance with LA R.S. 47:2202, et seq.; and

WHEREAS, the Parish of Lincoln has received a written offer to purchase said property from Brandon J. Milner, for the consideration of \$1,949.93 (One Thousand Nine Hundred Forty-Nine Dollars and Ninety-Three Cents) cash, has been accepted by the Lincoln Parish Police Jury; and

WHEREAS, the property described herein below will be purchased through the Parish "Lot Next Door" program and is therefore exempt from the public bidding requirement.

NOW BE IT ORDAINED by the Lincoln Parish Police Jury, that any Act of Sale of the below described property shall contain the following conditions and requirements:

- 1) This property described as Lincoln Parish Parcel # 19181000076 with no municipal address located on S Pine Street, Lincoln Parish, LA and more fully described as:

Parcel# 19181000076 / No Municipal Address

Brief Legal: o PINE ST BEG 126'S. OF D/O HWY. AND RUNNING S. ALONG THE E/L OF JOHN E. FORD'S LAND PURCHASED FROM THE D.E. FORD EST. 70' TO THE N/L OF PARDUE PROP. TH. E. ALONG N/L OF PARDUE PROP. 66', N 71' 10, W. 66 TO POB, SEC 19-18-1

Legal Description: Beginning 126 feet south of Dixie Overland Highway and running South along the east line of John E. Ford's land purchased from the D.E. Ford Estate 70 feet to the north line of the Pardue property, thence East along North line of Pardue property 66 ft, thence North 71 feet and 10 inches, thence west 66 feet to point of beginning. In Section 19, Township 18 N. R. 1 West.

- 2) This property shall be sold in accordance with LS-R.S. 47:2201 *et. seq.*, without any warranty, from either the Parish or Management Company, whatsoever, even as to the return of the purchase price.
- 3) The sale shall be on a form approved by the Parish Attorney and that the sales price is paid by certified funds at the time of the sale.
- 4) The sale shall include a reservation of all mineral rights to the Parish, but shall convey all surface rights.
- 5) The following shall be completed prior to closing of sale:
 - a. E&P Consulting Services, LLC shall certify in writing to the Parish Attorney that they have examined the mortgage records, conveyance records, probate and civil suit records of the Parish of Lincoln and that attached to this certification will be a written list of names and last known addresses of all owners, mortgagees, and any other person who may have a vested or contingent interest in the property, or who has filed a request for notice as provided in the former provisions LS-R.S. 33:4720.17(B), as indicated in those records.
 - b. E&P Consulting Services, LLC will provide notice to those persons identified in accordance with LS-R.S. 47:2201 *et. seq.* Proof of said notice will be filed in the conveyance records of Lincoln Parish immediately after the Act of Sale.
 - c. At the time of closing, the E&P Consulting Services, LLC will certify in writing to Parish Attorney and Clerk of Court that the number of days mandated by LS-R.S. 47:2201 *et. seq.* has elapsed since the above required notice was made or attempted and that the property has not been redeemed by the payment of the taxes owed.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, by the Lincoln Parish Policy Jury, that the Police Jury President is hereby authorized to execute a Cash Sale of the above described adjudicated property to the highest acceptable bidder. The Cash Sale shall contain all of the above conditions and requirements and shall be executed within the timelines specified. The above ordinance having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: Wyatt, Durrett, Hunt, Scriber, Pullin, Henderson, Melton, Mayfield, and Straughter

Next item on the agenda was the Ruston-Lincoln Convention and Visitors Bureau 2023 Amended and 2024 Proposed Budgets. Mrs. Amanda Carrier with the Ruston-Lincoln Convention and Visitors Bureau presented the budgets, Sharyon Mayfield offered a motion, seconded by Joe Henderson, to approve the 2023 Amended Budget. The motion carried with the following votes:

YEAS: Wyatt, Durrett, Hunt, Scriber, Pullin, Henderson, Melton, Mayfield, and Straughter

Theresa Wyatt offered a motion, seconded by Logan Hunt, to approve the 2024 Proposed Budget for the Ruston-Lincoln Convention and Visitors Bureau. The motion carried with the following votes:

YEAS: Wyatt, Durrett, Hunt, Scriber, Pullin, Henderson, Melton, Mayfield, and Straughter

Next item on the agenda was to adopt a Resolution for the Off System Bridge Annual Certification. Glenn Scriber offered a motion, seconded by Logan Hunt, to approve the Off System Bridge Annual Certification.

RESOLUTION NO. 23-29

WHEREAS, the Code of Federal Regulations as enacted by the United States Congress mandates that all structures defined as bridges located on all public roads shall be inspected, rated for safe load capacity and posted in accordance with the National Bridge Inspection Standards and that an inventory of these bridges be maintained by each State; and

WHEREAS, the responsibility to inspect, rate and load post those bridges under the authority of Lincoln Parish in accordance with those Standards is delegated by the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development to Lincoln Parish.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the governing authority of Lincoln Parish (herein referred to as the Parish) that the Parish in regular meeting assembled does hereby certify to the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (herein referred to the DOTD) that for the period 1 October, 2022 through 30 September, 2023:

1. The Parish has performed all interim inspections on Parish owned or maintained bridges in accordance with the National Bridge Inspection Standards.
2. Bridges owned or maintained by the Parish have been structurally analyzed and rated as to the safe load capacity in accordance with AASPHTO Manual for Maintenance Inspection of Bridges. The load information that has been determined by the I-A DOTD for all bridges where the maximum legal load under Louisiana State law exceeds the load permitted under the operating rating as determined above has been critically reviewed by the Parish. Load posting information has been updated by the Parish to reflect all structural changes, any obsolete structural ratings or any missing structural ratings.

3. Parish owned or maintained bridges which require load posting or closing are load posted or closed in accordance with the table in the DOTD Engineering Directives and Standards Manual Directive No. 1.1.1.8 All DOTD supplied load posting information concerning a bridge has been critically reviewed by the Parish Engineer prior to load posting.
4. Bridges owned or maintained by the Parish are shown on the attached list in the format specified by the DOTD. Corrections to data supplied to the Parish by the La. DOTD are noted. These stipulations are prerequisites to participation by the Parish in the Off-System Bridge Replacement Program.

/s/ Courtney Hall
 Courtney Hall
 Interim Parish Administrator

/s/ Richard I. Durrett
 Richard I. Durrett
 Police Jury President

The motion carried with the following votes:

YEAS: Wyatt, Durrett, Hunt, Scriber, Pullin, Henderson, Melton, Mayfield, and Straughter

Next item on the agenda was to adopt a Certificate evidencing public approval of bonds to be issued by Capital Area Finance Authority pursuant to Section 147 (f) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and authorizing the President to sign the certificate. Logan Hunt offered a motion, seconded by Glenn Scriber, to adopt the Certificate.

RESOLUTION NO 23-30

CERTIFICATE OF LINCOLN PARISH EVIDENCING PUBLIC APPROVAL OF BONDS PURSUANT TO SECTION 147(D OF THE

INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986, AS AMENDED

WHEREAS, the Capital Area Finance Authority (the "Authority"), a public trust created pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 2-A of Title 9 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as _____, amended (R.S. 9:2341-9:2347, inclusive) (the "Act") has, by resolution dated 2023, in accordance with the requirements of the Act, and the Rules and Regulations of the Louisiana State Bond Commission (the "Commission"), duly authorized the issuance of not exceeding of Capital Area Finance Authority Revenue Bonds in one or more series (the "Bonds") to finance loans to first-time homebuyers within the jurisdictional parishes of the Authority and such other governmental units (the "Participating Jurisdictions") whose governing authority authorized and directed the execution of a cooperative endeavor agreement (a "CEA") with the Authority under the provisions of the Act and other applicable constitutional and statutory authorities; and

WHEREAS, the Commission, on August 17, 2023, duly authorized the issuance and sale of the Bonds in accordance with law and the Commission's Rules and Regulations; and

WHEREAS, the Bonds are classified as exempt facility bonds under the provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code") and the provisions of Section 147(f)(2)(A), (B) and (E) of the Code require that issuance of the Bonds be approved by the "applicable elected representative" of the governmental unit which issues such bonds or on whose behalf such bonds are issued and by the "applicable elected representative" of such other Participating Jurisdictions that have executed a CEA with the Authority under the provisions of the Act; and

WHEREAS, (the "Governmental Unit") has executed a CEA with the Authority to permit the financing of loans to first-time homebuyers within geographic area of the Governmental Unit; and

WHEREAS, the applicable elected representative (the "Approving Representative") of the Governmental Unit for purposes of approving the Bonds is the LINCOLN Parish President and

WHEREAS, in compliance with the requirements of the Code, Notice of Public Hearing (attached as Exhibit "A" hereto), was published in (i) The Advocate, Baton Rouge, Louisiana on September 8th, 2023, (ii) The Daily Advertiser, Lafayette, Louisiana on September 8th 2023, (iii) the Houma Courier, Houma, Louisiana on September 8th, 2023, (iv) the Lake Charles American Press, Lake Charles, Louisiana on September 8th, 2023, (v) The News Star, Monroe, Louisiana on September 8, 2023, (vi) the Times-Picayune, New Orleans, Louisiana on September 8th, 2023, (vii) The Times, Shreveport, Louisiana on September 8th 2023, and (viii) The Town Talk, Alexandria, Louisiana on September 8th 2023, and

WHEREAS, in compliance with the requirements of the Code, the public hearing with respect to the issuance of said Bonds was held on September 18, 2023, at 1:00 p.m., Louisiana Time, at 601 St. Ferdinand Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, and simultaneously held by teleconference with a toll-free number 1-888-475-4499 and guest access code 994-030-3250 in accordance with Rev. Proc. 2022-20 after due notice thereof was published in the official journal of the Authority and in the aforementioned publications sufficient to inform the public within the geographic area of the Participating Jurisdictions of the subject, date and place of said public hearing; and

WHEREAS, no objections were raised by any person present at the said hearing or by any person participating by teleconference relative to the issuance of the Bonds; and

WHEREAS, the undersigned, Approving Representative of the Participating Jurisdiction, desires to approve the issuance of the Bonds for the purposes of the Code;

NOW, THEREFORE, the undersigned does hereby certify that the Chief elected executive officer/governing authority of the Participating Jurisdiction, hereby approves, and confirms the issuance of the Bonds. The Authority, and its officers, are authorized to cause this certificate to be filed of record in the transcript of proceedings for the Bonds and to file a copy thereof with any State or Federal agency, board or commission as may be required by any applicable State or Federal laws, rules, or regulations.

WITNESS my signature this day of 10th day October, 2023, at Louisiana.

/s/ Courtney Hall
Courtney Hall
Interim Parish Administrator

/s/ Richard I. Durrett
Richard I. Durrett
Police Jury President

The motion carried with the following votes:

YEAS: Wyatt, Durrett, Hunt, Scriber, Pullin, Henderson, Melton, Mayfield, and Straughter

Next on the agenda was to announce a vacancy and recommendation to the fill the unexpired term of Mr. George Parkman for Waterworks District No. 2. Joe Henderson offered a motion, seconded by Matt Pullin, to appoint Mr. Jay Keen to the Waterworks District No. 2 filling the unexpired term of Mr. George Parkman through December 31, 2023.

Resolution No. 23-31

BE IT RESOLVED by the Police Jury of Lincoln Parish,

Louisiana, convened in Regular Session this
10th day of October, 2023 that
Mr. Jay Keen
Is hereby and herewith appointed, COMMISSIONER
Waterworks District No. 2
Lincoln Parish, Louisiana,
For the term of October 10, 2023 – December 31, 2023
Signed and Sealed this 10th day of October, 2023
LINCOLN PARISH POLICE JURY
* * * * *

/s/ Courtney Hall
Courtney Hall
Interim Parish Administrator

/s/ Richard I. Durrett
Richard I. Durrett
Police Jury President

Next item on the Agenda was to authorize a piggyback purchase of air packs on the City of New Orleans Fire Department Contract. After discussion, Glenn Scriber offered a motion, seconded by Logan Hunt, to authorize the piggyback purchase of ten air packs on the City of New Orleans Fire Department Contract. The motion carried with the following votes:

YEAS: Wyatt, Durrett, Hunt, Scriber, Pullin, Henderson, Melton, Mayfield, and Straughter

Next item on the agenda was to discuss, and take action if necessary, projects to be considered for Capital Outlay Applications to the State of Louisiana. Following discussion, it was recommended that projects include infrastructure planning and a livestock arena at the Expo Center. Logan Hunt offered a motion, seconded by Matt Pullin, to authorize the submittal of applications and projects under the Capital Outlay. The motion carried with the following votes:

YEAS: Wyatt, Durrett, Hunt, Scriber, Pullin, Henderson, Melton, Mayfield, and Straughter

Interim Parish Administrator Courtney Hall presented the budget report.

President Durrett called for Public Comments. Mr. Cornelius George commented on Fire District response time for District 9 and 10.

After discussion of other business and reports from Department Heads, Sharyon Mayfield offered a motion, seconded by Logan Hunt, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried with the following votes:

YEAS: Wyatt, Durrett, Hunt, Scriber, Pullin, Henderson, Melton, Mayfield, and Straughter

Courtney Hall
Interim Parish Administrator

Richard I. Durrett
Police Jury President

The Lincoln Parish Police Jury met in special session on Thursday, November 2, 2023, at 5:30 p.m., in the Police Jury Meeting Room, 100 West Texas Avenue, Ruston, Louisiana. Present were: Theresa Wyatt, District One; Hazel Hunter, District Two; Richard I. Durrett, District Three; T.J. Cranford, District Four; Logan Hunt, District Five; Joe Henderson, District Nine; Milton Melton, District Ten; Sharyon Mayfield, District Eleven and Annette Straughter, District Twelve.

ABSENT: Glenn Scriber, District Six; Matt Pullin, District Seven; and Skip Russell, District Eight

President Durrett called the meeting to order, and Sharyon Mayfield delivered the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Durrett called for Public Comments on the Agenda. There were none.

Annette Straughter offered a motion, seconded by Sharyon Mayfield, to approve the Agenda as presented. The motion was voted upon and carried with the following votes:

YEAS: Wyatt, Hunter, Durrett, Cranford, Hunt, Henderson, Melton, Mayfield, and Straughter

The only item on the Agenda was to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing pending litigation per R.S. 42:17 (A) (2)- Crochet Equipment Company, Inc. vs. Lincoln Parish Police Jury. Annette Straughter offered a motion, seconded by Hazel Hunter, to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the pending litigation. The motion was voted on by roll call:

MEMBER	YEA	NAY	ABSENT	ABSTAINED
Theresa Wyatt	<u>XX</u>	_____	_____	_____
Hazel Hunter	<u>XX</u>	_____	_____	_____
Richard Durrett	<u>XX</u>	_____	_____	_____
T. J. Cranford	<u>XX</u>	_____	_____	_____
Logan Hunt	<u>XX</u>	_____	_____	_____
Glenn Scriber	_____	_____	<u>XX</u>	_____
Matt Pullin	_____	_____	<u>XX</u>	_____
Skip Russell	_____	_____	<u>XX</u>	_____
Joe Henderson	<u>XX</u>	_____	_____	_____
Milton Melton	<u>XX</u>	_____	_____	_____
Sharyon Mayfield	<u>XX</u>	_____	_____	_____
Annette Straughter	<u>XX</u>	_____	_____	_____

The motion passed unanimously.

Milton Melton offered a motion, seconded by Annette Straughter, to exit Executive Session and reconvene the special meeting. The motion was voted on by roll call:

MEMBER	YEA	NAY	ABSENT	ABSTAINED
Theresa Wyatt	<u>XX</u>	_____	_____	_____
Hazel Hunter	<u>XX</u>	_____	_____	_____
Richard Durrett	<u>XX</u>	_____	_____	_____
T. J. Cranford	<u>XX</u>	_____	_____	_____
Logan Hunt	<u>XX</u>	_____	_____	_____
Glenn Scriber	_____	_____	<u>XX</u>	_____
Matt Pullin	_____	_____	<u>XX</u>	_____
Skip Russell	_____	_____	<u>XX</u>	_____
Joe Henderson	<u>XX</u>	_____	_____	_____
Milton Melton	<u>XX</u>	_____	_____	_____

Sharyon Mayfield	<u>XX</u>	_____	_____	_____
Annette Straughter	<u>XX</u>	_____	_____	_____

The motion passed unanimously.

Logan Hunt offered a motion, seconded by Annette Straughter, to authorize actions as discussed in Executive Session. The motion carried with the following votes:

YEAS: Wyatt, Hunter, Durrett, Cranford, Hunt, Henderson, Melton, Mayfield, and Straughter

President Durrett called for Public Comments. There were none.

With no other business to come before the Jury, Annette Straughter offered a motion, seconded by Hazel Hunter, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried with the following votes:

YEAS: Wyatt, Hunter, Durrett, Cranford, Hunt, Henderson, Melton, Mayfield, and Straughter

Courtney Hall
Interim Parish Administrator

Richard I. Durrett
Police Jury President

ORDINANCE NO. _____**AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE AN ACT OF SALE BY THE PARISH OF LINCOLN TO SELL ADJUDICATED PROPERTY DESCRIBED AS: PARCEL NO. 26203839190 IN ACCORDANCE WITH LA R.S. 47: 2202 T SEQ. AND TO AUTHORIZE THE LINCOLN PARISH POLICE JURY PRESIDENT TO SIGN ALL NECESSARY DOCUMENTS AND TO ADDRESS THEIR MATTERS RELATIVE THERETO**

WHEREAS, the immovable property described below was adjudicated to the Parish of Lincoln in 1993, for nonpayment of taxes; and

WHEREAS, the three (3) year period for redemption provided by Art. 7, §25 of the Louisiana Constitution has elapsed, as well as the five (5) year redemption period established by Parish Ordinance No: 337-14-0 and the owner of record has failed to redeem the adjudicated property; and

WHEREAS, LA R.S. 47: 2202 *et seq.* provides that the Parish may sell adjudicated property in accordance with law after the expiration of the period for redemption; and

WHEREAS, the Parish of Lincoln has declared the property described below surplus and not needed for a public purpose and to dispose of said property in accordance with LA R.S. 47:2202, *et seq.*; and

WHEREAS, the Parish of Lincoln has received a written offer to purchase said property from Dorothy & Lonnie Thomas, for the consideration of \$2,464.00 (Two Thousand Four Hundred Sixty Four Dollars and No Cents) cash, has been accepted by the Lincoln Parish Police Jury; and

WHEREAS, the property described herein below will be purchased through the Parish "Lot Next Door" program and is therefore exempt from the public bidding requirement.

NOW BE IT ORDAINED by the Lincoln Parish Police Jury, that any Act of Sale of the below described property shall contain the following conditions and requirements:

- 1) This property described as Lincoln Parish Parcel # 26203839190, with no municipal address located in Dubach, LA and more fully described as:

BEG. AT THE SEC OF LOUIS MCCOLLISTER'S LOT AND RUN S. 100', W. 115', N. 100', E. 115' TO POB, ALL IN NW OF SW, SEC. 26-20-3.

- 2) This property shall be sold in accordance with LS-R.S. 47:2201 *et. seq.*, without any warranty, from either the Parish or Management Company, whatsoever, even as to the return of the purchase price.
- 3) The sale shall be on a form approved by the Parish Attorney and that the sales price is paid by certified funds at the time of the sale.
- 4) The sale shall include a reservation of all mineral rights to the Parish, but shall convey all surface rights.
- 5) The following shall be completed prior to closing of sale:
 - a. E&P Consulting Services, LLC shall certify in writing to the Parish Attorney that they have examined the mortgage records, conveyance records, probate and civil suit records of the Parish of Lincoln and that attached to this certification will be a written list of names and last known addresses of all owners, mortgagees, and any other person who may have a vested or contingent interest in the property, or who has filed a request for notice as provided in the former provisions LS-R.S. 33:4720.17(B), as indicated in those records.
 - b. E&P Consulting Services, LLC will provide notice to those persons identified in accordance with LS-R.S. 47:2201 *et. seq.* Proof of said notice will be filed in the conveyance records of Lincoln Parish immediately after the Act of Sale.
 - c. At the time of closing, the E&P Consulting Services, LLC will certify in writing to Parish Attorney and Clerk of Court that the number of days mandated by LS-R.S. 47:2201 *et. seq.* has elapsed since the above required notice was made or attempted and that the property has not been redeemed by the payment of the taxes owed.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, by the Lincoln Parish Policy Jury, that the Police Jury President is hereby authorized to execute a Cash Sale of the above described adjudicated property to the highest acceptable bidder. The Cash Sale shall contain all of the above conditions and requirements and shall be executed

within the timelines specified. The above ordinance having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS:

NAYS:

ABSTAINED:

ABSENT:

Parcel #26203839190

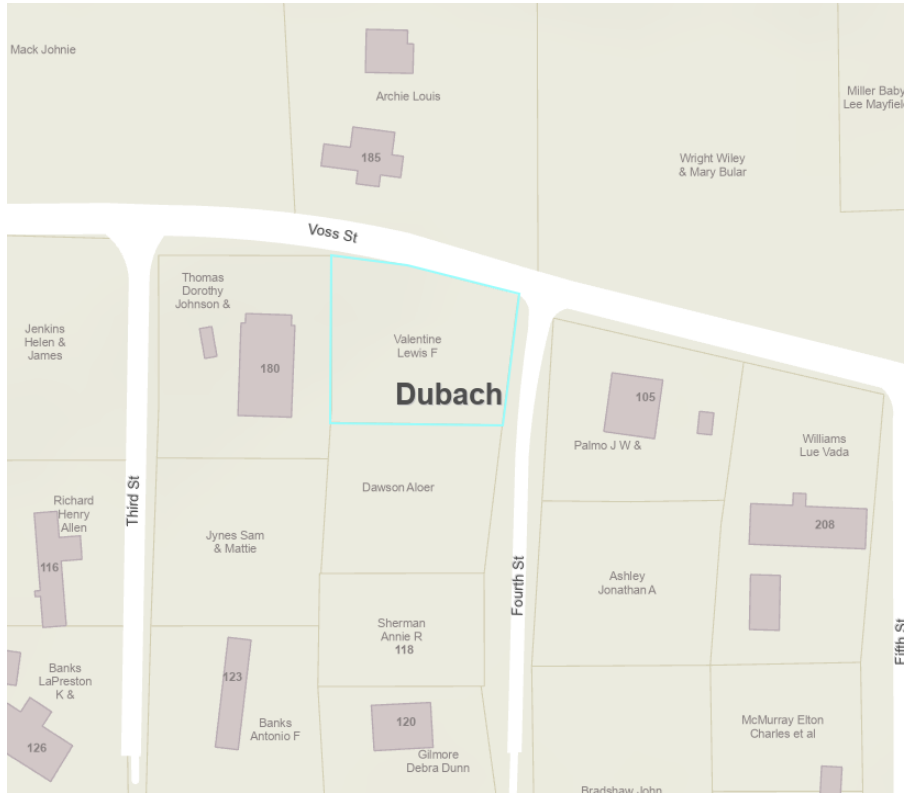
Near intersection of Voss St and Fourth St, Dubach, LA

Item #11.

Police Jury District 04

0.26 Acres

“Lot Next Door” \$2,464.00



SEEKING GUIDANCE REGARDING:

Item #12.

The Lincoln Parish Police Jury owns mineral rights under two State Agency Leases granted by the State Mineral Board of Louisiana on your departments behalf. Attached is a scan of each lease.

- 1) State Agency lease #13594, Tract 24845, covering 41.171 acres within Section 33, Township 18N, Range 4W of Lincoln Parish

- 2) State Agency lease #10520, Tract 19290, covering 60 acres also within Section 33, Township 18N, Range 4W of Lincoln Parish

To be transparent regarding this request, the conveyance of assignment is complete and was effective December 1, 2022. Sending consent letters to the Agencies under the State of LA lease forms was overlooked. Comstock accepts this was our responsibility and hope the indemnity language in the assignment will answer your concerns of existing lease obligations and all royalty payments. All obligations and payments due under this lease are clear and in good standing.

The operator, TGNR TVL, LLC, of the wells, Reeves #1 and State Lease 13582 #3, contributing revenue under this lease will remain the same, so the source of the revenue payments will not change.

I have attached a copy of the assignment and a form of the letter of consent for your review. Please provide the name, title, and email address of the person who has authority to execute the consent. We are available to address all your concerns.

Respectfully,

Charlene Crump

Lease Records Supervisor

972-668-0617

ccrump@comstockresources.com

5300 Town & Country Blvd. Ste 500

Frisco Tx 75034

October 26, 2023

Mr.
Lincoln Parish Police Jury
Address:

Re: State Agency Lease # 13594 & #10520
Lincoln Parish, LA

Dear Mr. Ellis:

Comstock Oil & Gas – Louisiana, LLC (“Comstock”) is the current Lessee of the referenced State Agency Leases. Effective December 1, 2022, Comstock conveyed all its rights, title, and interest in the Lease to these companies.

56% Dixie Lake Royalty, LLC, PO Box 2109, Longview, TX 75606
44% Sabine Holdings, LP, 312 W. Sabine St., Carthage, TX 75633

Pursuant to the provisions of the Lease, Comstock is required and respectfully requests your consent to the assignment of the Lease from Comstock to Dixie Lake Royalty and Sabine Holdings.

Please execute this letter and return it by email or mail to the below. If you should have any questions, please feel free to call or email.

Respectfully,

Charlene Crump
Lease Records Supervisor
972-668-0717
ccrump@comstockresources.com
5300 Town & Country Blvd., Ste 500
Frisco, TX 75034

THIS CONSENT TO ASSIGN IS
GRANTED THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2023

By: _____

Title: _____



John Bel Edwards
Governor

Don Pierson
Secretary

October 26, 2023

via e-mail

Police Jury President Richard I. Durrett
Attn: Mr. Kevin Klepzig, Asst. Parish Admin.
Lincoln Parish Police Jury
100 W Texas Avenue, 3rd Floor
Ruston, LA 71270

RE: Weyerhaeuser NR Company
Board of Commerce and Industry Approval Notice ("Notice")
Tax Exemption Application #20220452-ITE - \$62,559,200.00

Dear Police Jury President Durrett:

This Notice is being provided to you pursuant to the Rules of the Board of Commerce and Industry ("Board"), effective August 20, 2018, specifically Title 13 of the Louisiana Administrative Code, §503(H)(1) ("Rule").

Pursuant to this Rule, the Notice is hereby given that the above-referenced Tax Exemption Application for Weyerhaeuser NR Company, attached hereto along with the corresponding Exhibit A, was approved by the Board on Wednesday, October 25, 2023. Local governmental entities have thirty days from the date notice of the Board's approval is posted on LED's website to determine whether to take further action on the approval in accordance with the Rule and may provide the necessary notice to LED, timely, using the attached Notice of Action. Any local governmental entity that timely notifies LED that the above-referenced application has been placed on the agenda of a public meeting will have an additional thirty days to make a final determination in accordance with the Rule. If the local governmental entity takes no action or does not provide timely notice of action to LED within the delays provided by the Rule, then the application shall be deemed approved by that entity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kristin Cheng". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Kristin Cheng
Program Administrator
Industrial Tax Exemption Program
(225) 342-2083
ITEP@la.gov

c: Assessor, Lincoln Parish

Industrial Tax Exemption Program Application - (Post Executive Order 2018)

** Any changes made to the information provided after the initial submission of this Application, whether requested by the Company or by LED, may result in a delay in Application processing time and/or Board of Commerce & Industry consideration. **

Project ID: 20220452-ITE

Date Received: 8/4/2023

PROJECT INFORMATION

Company: Weyerhaeuser NR Company
Project Name: Project Bruno - Arcadia Mill
Project Location: 130 Girl Scout Road , Simsboro, LA, 71275
Parish: Lincoln
City Limits?: --

COMPANY INFORMATION

Product Manufactured: The Arcadia OSB facility creates 4x8ft sheets of Oriented Strand Board (OSB) used in residential and commercial construction across North America.
Manufacturing Process/Activities: Southern Pine logs are brought to the facility where they are debarked, stranded, dried, blended, formed, and pressed into 4x8 sheets of Oriented Strand Board (OSB).

GAMING

Has the applicant or any affiliates received, applied for, or considered applying for a license to conduct gaming activities? Yes No

If yes, please give a detailed explanation including the name of the entity receiving or applying for the license, the relationship to the business if an affiliate, the location and the type of gaming activities:

PROJECT DETAILS

NAICS: 321219
Project Type: Addition
Project Start Date (beginning of construction and/or installation): 11/1/2022
Project End Date (ending of construction and/or installation): 10/31/2024
Anticipated date for the commencement of operations of this project: 10/31/2024
Project Description:

Weyerhaeuser NR Company's Arcadia mill project has began with the installation of new technology in the Energy System and Dryer System to increase efficiency and productivity. The Energy System installation includes advancing a common heat source with the addition of three new heat sources. The new Dryer System is being installed with recirculation systems. Also, included is the construction of a corresponding Furnace MCC Room with two transformers that will supply power to the new equipment included in the energy project. This project modernizes the facility and helps increase production of Oriented Strand Board (OSB) to supply the US housing market. This project will retain the 149 existing jobs at the site.

Will any portion of this project become operational/usable prior to the overall project's completion (i.e. application filled in phases)? Yes No

Calendar Years: 2024,2023

ESTIMATED INVESTMENTS

Building & Materials: \$400,000.00
Machinery & Equipment: \$28,457,685.00
Labor & Engineering: \$33,701,515.00
Estimated Total Investment Amount: \$62,559,200.00
Less: Restricted Amount: \$0
Total Estimated Investments: \$62,559,200.00

ESTIMATED JOBS

Existing Jobs at Project Site: 149
Existing Jobs Statewide: 890
 Will this project create new jobs? Yes No
New Direct Jobs: 0
Contract Jobs: 0
Will new jobs be created in phases?
Explain:
Construction Jobs: 150
Total Estimated Jobs: 299
New Jobs for this phase: 0
 If no new jobs are being created with this project, will existing jobs be retained? Yes No
If yes, provide a compelling reason(s) for retention: These additions are a vital piece to Weyerhaeuser site improvements because the new technology being installed will allow for our 149 retained employees to increase production and work more efficiently.

ESTIMATED PAYROLL

Existing Jobs Payroll:	\$10,430,000.00
Existing Jobs Statewide Payroll:	\$60,340,000.00
New Direcy Jobs Payroll:	\$0.00
Contract Jobs Payroll:	\$0.00
Construction Jobs Payroll:	\$6,750,000.00
Total Estimated Payroll:	\$17,180,000.00
New payroll for current phase:	\$0.00

PROPERTY TAX

Millage Rate for this property. Use the millage rate obtained from the parish assessor to calculate the fee. 0.0711
 This is usually a whole number (i.e., 115.47 or 92.665. A millage rate is expressed in 1/1000ths of a dollar (known as one mill). Convert the whole number millage rate by dividing by 1000 to a decimal number (i.e., the whole numbers converted to 1/1000ths would be .1154 or .0927 when rounded to four digits.)

Note: [Proof of Millage/Location form](#) must be completed by the parish assessor and uploaded to the attachments of this application.

Total Property Taxes paid (most recent year for this site): 675133.00

BUSINESS LEGAL STRUCTURE

Is this company an LLC? Yes No

If an LLC members or pass through entity, list below the names and the LA Dept. of Revenue tax identification number or social security number for all.

LLC Members

Legal Name

ESTIMATED BENEFIT

Investment Amount:	\$62,559,200.00
x Assessment Percentage:	0.15
x Millage Rate:	0.0711
=Annual Exemption	\$666,818.51
Annual Exemption * 5 years at 80%	\$2,667,274.05
+ Annual Exemption * 5 years at 80%	\$2,667,274.05
=Estimated Ten Year Property Tax Exemption	\$5,334,548.10

FEE CALCULATION

Estimated Ten Year Property Tax Exemption :	\$5,334,548.10
x Rate	0.005
= Assessed Fee (\$500.00 Minimum—\$15000.00 Maximum)	\$15,000.00
Amount Paid:	\$15,000.00
Amount Due:	\$0.00

ATTACHMENTS

Document Type	Document Name	Date
Other	20220452-ITE Notarized Affidavit.pdf	12/20/2022
Proof of Millage	#20220452-ITE Proof of Millage.pdf	12/28/2022
Breakdown of Purchases	#20220452-ITE BreakdownofPurchases.xlsx	5/30/2023
Other	WeyerHaeuser #20220452-ITEEmploymentBaselineCalculationWorksheet.pdf	5/30/2023
ES4	#20220452-ITE SUTAs.pdf	5/30/2023
Baseline Calculation Worksheet	#20220452-ITEBaselineCalculationWorksheet_Rev1Signed.pdf	8/29/2023
ES4	SUTAs1.pdf	8/29/2023
Notarized Affidavit	20220452-ITEContractAffidavit-Revised.pdf	9/6/2023

PAYMENTS

Fee Type	Amount Paid	Date Received	Confirmation #	Transaction Type
APPLICATION	\$15,000.00	8/4/2023	ONDT2FK2PV	visa_credit

PROJECT CONTACTS

Contact First Name	Contact Last Name	Company Name	Contact Type
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Contact First Name	Contact Last Name	Company Name	Contact Type
Christopher	Woloszyn	Weyerhaeuser NR Company	Business
Isaac	Good	Weyerhaeuser NR Company	Business
Dare	Powers	Didier Consultants, Inc.	Consultant
Ronlyn	Fleury	Didier Consultants, Inc.	Consultant
Diana	Day	Didier Consultants, Inc.	Consultant
Marsha	McLean	Weyerhaeuser NR Company	Business
Keith	O'Rear	Weyerhaeuser NR Company	Business Signatory

CONTRACT SIGNATORY

The contract signatory will be used when signing contracts. The contracts will be signed online and will take place after the board approves a form.

Title: Sr VP Wood Products

First Name: Keith

Last Name: O'Rear

Email Address: keith.orear@weyerhaeuser.com

CERTIFICATION STATEMENT

I hereby certify that this project meets all Constitutional, statutory and regulatory provisions applicable to this program. I hereby certify that the information provided in this document and additional materials is true and correct and that I am aware that my submission of any false information or omission of any pertinent information resulting in the false representation of a material fact may subject me to civil and/or criminal penalties for filing false public records (R.S. 14:133) and/or forfeiture of any tax benefits approved under this program. I understand that the application and information submitted shall not be returnable to the applicant.

FORM SIGNATURE

I, **Christopher Woloszyn**

, approve the above information.

John W. Johnson

NOV. 18 ELECTION AMENDMENT 1

Deadlines to Veto Bills and Rules for Veto Sessions

YOU DECIDE



A VOTE FOR WOULD:

Allow lawmakers to try to override a governor's bill rejections without calling a separate veto session if they are already in a legislative session and add further details about the deadlines for a governor to veto bills.

A VOTE AGAINST WOULD:

Require lawmakers trying to override a governor's bill rejections to hold a separate veto session if the vetoes came in a legislative session that has ended and keep the current rules for a governor to issue bill vetoes.

CURRENT SITUATION

Louisiana's governor has the authority to veto entire bills and to strike out individual items from budget bills through a line-item veto. A bill becomes law if a governor does not sign it or veto it within a specific time: 10 days after the governor receives the bill if the Legislature remains in session or 20 days after the governor receives the bill if the legislative session has ended.

When a governor rejects bills, the constitution calls for a veto session to be scheduled automatically, starting at noon on the 40th day following final adjournment of the most recent legislative session. If the 40th day falls on Sunday, the session starts on Monday. The veto session can't last more than five days. A majority vote of either the House or Senate through a written ballot can scrap the gathering. The deadline to cancel the session is five days before the veto session is scheduled to start.

Lawmakers had canceled every veto session scheduled under the 1974 constitution until the current four-year term. They've held three veto sessions since 2021, with several legislators saying they believe veto sessions will be convened more regularly in the future.

Until this term, lawmakers overturned only two gubernatorial vetoes under the current constitution, both during regular sessions. During this term, lawmakers have overturned two more bill vetoes, both during veto sessions.

Lawmakers have held multiple special sessions in recent years, with many of those special sessions immediately following or preceding a regular session. Legal disagreements emerged about how the veto rules apply if one session has ended but another is ongoing. Questions arose about which deadlines apply for bill veto decisions if lawmakers adjourned a regular session but were in a special session when the governor receives bills passed in the recently ended regular session. Clashing legal opinions also surfaced about how to handle a veto session if its constitutionally set timing falls during another legislative session.

Lawmakers in 2022 adjourned an ongoing regular session temporarily and held a separate veto session to overturn one of the governor's vetoes of a bill from a prior special session because the required timing of the veto session fell amid the regular legislative session. Lawmakers adjourned their regular session on March 29, held a one-day veto session on March 30 and then returned for the regular session on April 4.

PROPOSED CHANGE

The amendment would spell out the governor's deadlines for deciding the fate of a bill and rework the rules governing veto sessions in instances where lawmakers are gathered in another legislative session.

The governor would have 10 days to determine whether to sign or veto a bill after receipt if the Legislature remains in the same session in which lawmakers passed the bill. The governor would have 20 days to decide on a bill after receiving it if the legislative session in which lawmakers passed the bill has adjourned. If the governor doesn't sign or veto a bill within the appropriate time frame, it still would become law.

If a scheduled veto session would fall during a regular or special legislative session, lawmakers could consider overriding the bill rejections without holding a separate veto session. If lawmakers aren't in another legislative session, existing rules for a veto session would apply.

ARGUMENT FOR

Writers of the Louisiana Constitution didn't anticipate a governor or lawmakers would call so many special sessions in a term, so they didn't properly account for how to apply bill veto rules across multiple sessions when they fall close together. Lawmakers only started holding veto sessions this term, and timeline problems have become apparent. The rules need more clarity.

ARGUMENT AGAINST

The Louisiana Constitution is clear in its deadlines for bill vetoes and its rules for veto sessions. No need exists to add extra details and more words to an already cluttered document. Repeated special sessions and veto sessions may not be an issue in future terms. The changes only make the provisions more confusing.

Legal Citation: Act No. 278 (House Bill 166) by Rep. Gregory Miller of the 2022 Regular Session amends Article III, Section 18.

NOV. 18 ELECTION AMENDMENT 2

Repeal of Inactive Special Funds in the Constitution

**YOU
DECIDE**



A VOTE FOR WOULD:

Remove six inactive funds with zero or near-zero balances from the Louisiana Constitution.

A VOTE AGAINST WOULD:

Keep the six inactive funds with zero or near-zero balances in the Louisiana Constitution.

CURRENT SITUATION

Louisiana lawmakers have dedicated various categories of state revenue, setting aside some money from certain taxes, mineral revenues, fees and settlements into special funds in the state treasury and requiring the funds be used only for specific purposes and programs. Many of these dedications and funds are created in the state constitution.

When the constitution was enacted in 1974, it contained only two special funds. In the nearly 50 years since then, lawmakers and voters have added more than two dozen more constitutional funds. No funds have been eliminated from the constitution since they were created. Some funds have longstanding zero balances or haven't been used in years, if ever.

PROPOSED CHANGE

The amendment would do away with six defunct funds that aren't being used and no longer fulfill the purposes for which they were created.

Five of the funds don't contain any money: the Agricultural and Seafood Products Support Fund, Atchafalaya Basin Conservation Fund, First Use Tax Trust Fund, Higher Education Louisiana Partnership (HELP) Fund and Millennium Leverage Fund.

INACTIVE FUNDS TO BE REMOVED

Atchafalaya Basin Conservation Fund
Higher Education Louisiana Partnership (HELP) Fund
Millennium Leverage Fund
Agricultural and Seafood Products Support Fund
First Use Tax Trust Fund
Louisiana Investment Fund for Enhancement (LIFE)

One fund that would be repealed, the Louisiana Investment Fund for Enhancement (LIFE), contains \$604, according to the state treasury. It hasn't collected money in two decades, with the last deposit made in the 2001-02 budget year. The \$604 would be transferred to the state general fund to use however lawmakers choose.

Lawmakers and voters added the LIFE fund to the state constitution in 1983 to set aside a portion of "windfall revenues" from the production of oil and gas in Louisiana above a base originally set at nearly \$1.1 billion. The base then was adjusted annually using a formula tied to the federal Consumer Price Index. Louisiana appears not to have hit the benchmark in more than 20 years. Spending money out of the fund required a two-thirds vote of state lawmakers. Lawmakers withdrew \$361,000 in the 2003-04 budget year, the last withdrawal recorded by the state treasury.

ARGUMENT FOR

Repealing inactive funds wouldn't change anything for the state financially, but it would clean up the cluttered Louisiana Constitution. Such dedications are better placed in state law where they can be reworked as Louisiana's financial circumstances and policies change. Defunct funds should be reviewed periodically and removed for lack of use.

ARGUMENT AGAINST

Lawmakers and voters created the funds for an initial purpose, and they may want to return them to use in the future. Highlighting their inactivity is a good way to review the original plans for the funds and determine if adjustments are needed. Leaving the funds in the state constitution doesn't harm anything.

Legal Citation: Act No. 199 (House Bill 254) by Rep. Polly Thomas of the 2023 Regular Session repeals Article VII, Sections 4(D)(4)(b), 10.4, 10.10 and 10.12(B) and (C) and Article IX, Sections 9 and 10.

NOV. 18 ELECTION AMENDMENT 3

Property Tax Exemptions for First Responders

**YOU
DECIDE**



A VOTE FOR WOULD:

Allow a parish governing authority to give an extra property tax exemption to police, firefighters and certain other first responders who own homes and live in the parish.

A VOTE AGAINST WOULD:

Maintain the current property tax system, which doesn't let parish governing authorities offer the extra tax break to first responders.

CURRENT SITUATION

The Louisiana Constitution authorizes homeowners to receive an exemption from most parish property taxes up to \$75,000 of the value of the homestead if they live in the home.

Additionally, the state provides many special property tax breaks for people depending on their status, such as homeowners with disabilities, some military veterans and homeowners of certain income levels who are 65 or older. Parish governing authorities also have the option to increase some of those exemptions under specific guidelines.

More than 197,000 homes received special assessments in 2022, the most recent year for which data is available from the Louisiana Tax Commission. The state prevents parishes and other local taxing bodies from imposing additional taxes, reappraising property or adjusting millages to make up the losses from those exemptions.

PROPOSED CHANGE

The amendment would let a parish governing authority, such as a parish council or police jury, approve an additional exemption from property taxes for up to \$25,000 of the value of the home to qualified first responders who live in the parish.

Eligible first responders would include sheriffs, police officers and others deputized as peace officers; firefighters, including volunteer firefighters who meet specific criteria; certified emergency medical services (EMS) workers; emergency operators and dispatchers; and other full-time public employees involved with rapid emergency response.

Tax assessors in the parish where the additional property tax exemption is authorized for first responders would have to create an annual application process that includes documentation from an employer confirming the person is eligible for the tax break.

The state would continue to prevent parishes and other local taxing bodies where the first responder property tax break is approved from imposing additional taxes, reappraising property or adjusting millages to make up the losses from the exemption.

The provisions would apply to tax years starting in 2024.

ARGUMENT FOR

Granting an additional property tax break can help recruit and retain people in needed first responder jobs, and areas with severe shortages of police officers are searching for more ways to draw people to the work. Making the positions more attractive to potential employees can improve

public safety. The parish governing authority, which relies on money from the property tax for its operations and services to residents, will make the decision whether to lessen its collections by authorizing the extra tax exemption for first responders.

ARGUMENT AGAINST

Special property tax breaks erode the dollars available to local government to provide needed services and shift the tax burden to fewer taxpayers. An extra tax exemption for first responders will decrease the tax revenue available to school systems and other local agencies, many of which won't have a say on whether to enact the exemption. It also will worsen an inequitable taxing system, where neighbors with houses of similar value can pay vastly different property tax bills.

Legal Citation: Act No. 179 (Senate Bill 127) by Sen. Royce Duplessis of the 2023 Regular Session add Article VII, Section 21(O).

NOV. 18 ELECTION AMENDMENT 4

Rule Changes for the Revenue Stabilization Trust Fund

**YOU
DECIDE**



A VOTE FOR WOULD:

Tighten the rules on allowed use of a seven-year-old state trust fund that collects dollars from corporate tax collections and oil and gas production in Louisiana.

A VOTE AGAINST WOULD:

Maintain broad rules for emergency use of a seven-year-old state trust fund that collects dollars from corporate tax collections and gas production in Louisiana.

CURRENT SITUATION

Louisiana deposits higher-than-usual business tax collections and certain dollars from oil and gas exploration into the Revenue Stabilization Trust Fund to lessen the overreliance on volatile income sources for the state budget. The savings account, created by lawmakers and voters in 2016, quickly amassed more than \$2.2 billion and is expected to grow larger. Most of the money comes from corporate income and franchise tax collections.

The savings account aims to lessen boom-and-bust budget cycles in Louisiana tied to wide fluctuations in revenue sources that are less stable than individual income and sales tax collections. Corporate income and franchise tax collections above \$600 million annually and a portion of oil and gas production revenue (such as severance tax and royalty collections) above \$660 million each year must flow to the trust fund, rather than to the state general fund. That limits the use of the money to specific guidelines and creates hurdles for accessing the cash.

Once the fund reaches \$5 billion, lawmakers can spend up to 10% of the money on projects in the state construction budget and transportation infrastructure. However, the constitution lets lawmakers, with a two-thirds vote of the House and Senate, change the minimum fund balance triggers and the allowable percentage that can be spent on those projects. It also allows lawmakers to use any amount of the balance in an undefined emergency without reaching the \$5 billion benchmark if they gain approval from two-thirds of their colleagues. They could theoretically drain the entire fund at any time with a two-thirds vote.

The Revenue Stabilization Trust Fund is separate from Louisiana's Budget Stabilization Fund, more commonly called the "rainy day" fund. That savings account contains a separate \$900 million, largely filled with portions of state surpluses.

PROPOSED CHANGE

The amendment would remove the provision allowing withdrawals of any amount up to the full balance from the Revenue Stabilization Trust Fund in an undefined emergency with a two-thirds legislative vote and replace it with more restrictive language involving budget deficits. Lawmakers technically could still use the fund at any time, but it would take a more complicated series of votes and involve more constraints.

If the state faces a budget deficit in a current or upcoming financial year, lawmakers would be able to use up to \$250 million from the Revenue Stabilization Trust Fund under certain circumstances with a two-thirds vote of the House and Senate.

However, they could only access the savings account after they've tapped into the state's separate rainy day fund, used the full amount of its money available to them and still have a budget deficit. Spending from the rainy day fund also requires two-thirds of lawmakers to approve, and lawmakers can only spend one-third of its balance in a fiscal year.

If lawmakers max out their use of the rainy day fund and a deficit remains in a current budget year, they could take out as much as \$250 million from the Revenue Stabilization Trust Fund. If lawmakers max out their use of the rainy day fund and a deficit remains in the next budget year, they could take out only as much as is needed to fill the remaining gap, up to \$250 million.

In other words, lawmakers facing a budget deficit would have to get a two-thirds vote to spend the maximum dollars allowed from the rainy day fund. Then, they likely would have to get a second two-thirds vote to spend up to \$250 million from the Revenue Stabilization Trust Fund, with differing circumstances depending on which year contains a budget deficit.

Once they meet the budget criteria to remove money from the trust funds, they could spend dollars from both savings accounts for whatever purpose they choose. They also could spend above the \$250 million limit from the Revenue Stabilization Trust Fund in a deficit year with a two-thirds vote of the House and Senate if they meet the other criteria.

The amendment wouldn't change the Louisiana Legislature's ability to spend up to 10% of the Revenue Stabilization Trust Fund balance on construction projects once the fund reaches \$5 billion. It also wouldn't change lawmakers' ability to access the money sooner or spend a greater share of the dollars for those categories of projects with a two-thirds legislative vote. In any year, lawmakers could access the fund in any amount with a two-thirds vote, but the dollars could only be spent on construction projects and transportation infrastructure.

The method for depositing oil and gas revenue and corporate tax collections into the fund wouldn't be altered, so the amendment would not impact the amount of money that flows into the account.

ARGUMENT FOR

The Revenue Stabilization Trust Fund was created to bring more certainty to state budgeting and give lawmakers a financing source for needed infrastructure projects. Existing broad language allowing lawmakers to deplete the entire fund in anything they consider an emergency undermines the intent of the savings account and could let legislators squander billions of dollars.

ARGUMENT AGAINST

Louisiana locks up too much money in constitutionally protected accounts that limit lawmakers' ability to respond to the state's changing needs and circumstances. This amendment would worsen the problem, removing the Legislature's flexibility to tap into the Revenue Stabilization Trust Fund in times lawmakers consider an emergency. Conversely, if the intent is to keep the money from being squandered, the amendment doesn't go far enough to protect the dollars.

Legal Citation: Act No. 198 (House Bill 244) by Rep. Stuart Bishop of the 2023 Regular Session amends Article VII, Section 10.15(E)(1) and (F) and adds Article VII, Section 10.15(G).