

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD JANUARY 14, 2026, 9:00 A.M. ARCADIA, LA.

The Bienville Parish Police Jury met in regular session on the above date with the following members present: Bill Sims, Jerrica Roberson, Darryl Ryder, Jerry Bates, Vic Fowler, Michael Nelson and Keith Duck.

The invocation was given by Mr. Fowler.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Warren.

Ms. Roberson made the motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sims and was unanimously approved.

President Ryder called for the election of officers as the next order of business. Mr. Bates made the motion to elect Mr. Nelson as President. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sims and a roll call vote was as follows:

YEAS:	Sims, Roberson, Ryder, Bates, Fowler, Nelson and Duck.
NAYS:	None.
ABSENT:	None.

Mr. Bates made the motion to elect Mr. Fowler as Vice President. The motion was seconded by Mr. Duck and a roll call vote was as follows:

YEAS:	Sims, Roberson, Ryder, Bates, Fowler, Nelson and Duck.
NAYS:	None.
ABSENT:	None.

Mr. Sims made the motion to set the regular meeting day of the Police Jury as the second Wednesday of every month at 9:00 a. m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Fowler and unanimously approved.

Mr. Bates made the motion to waive the reading of the minutes of the last regular meeting of December 10, 2025, and to approve the same as published in the official journal and mailed to the members. The motion was seconded by Ms. Roberson and unanimously approved.

President Nelson called on Mr. Hays for the report of the Public Works Committee.

1. Approve the repairs to equipment #168 and # 91.
2. Approve the promotion of Adam Cloud to the Foreman Position for District C starting January 22, 2026 with foreman pay and the ability to approve purchase orders.
3. Approve a request from the Village of Castor to replace a culvert at 134 Oak Street in Castor, LA.

Mr. Ryder made the motion to approve the recommendations as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Duck and unanimously approved.

Mr. Sims made the motion to approve the recommendations presented by the Secretary from the Building and Grounds Committee to authorize the emergency repair to the A/C unit in the Courthouse and to approve the power washing and repainting of the parking lots. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ryder and unanimously approved.

The President stated this meeting was set as a public hearing for the abandonment of approximately 550 feet of Babers Road. The Secretary stated that no objections were

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received regarding this abandonment. Mr. Duck made the motion to abandon the 550 feet of Babers Road. The motion was seconded by Ms. Roberson and unanimously approved.

Mr. Bates made the motion to approve the proposed North Louisiana Crime Lab budget for 2026 and the amendments for the 2025 budget. The motion was seconded by Mr. Duck and unanimously approved.

The following resolution was offered by Mr. Ryder:

RESOLUTION

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 Bienville Parish, in accordance with those Standards, is delegated by the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development to Bienville Parish.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE POLICE JURY OF BIENVILLE PARISH, LOUISIANA, convened in Regular Session on the 14th day of January, that it does hereby certify to the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) that for the period of January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026:

1. The Parish will perform all interim inspections on all parish-owned or maintained bridges in accordance with the National Bridge Inspection Standards and Specifications for the National Bridge Inventory.
2. All bridges owned or maintained by the Parish will be structurally analyzed and rated by the Parish as to the safe load capacity in accordance with the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) Manual for Bridge Evaluation. The load posting information that has been determined by DOTD for all bridges where the maximum legal load under Louisiana State Law exceeds the load permitted under the operating rating as determined above will be critically reviewed by the Parish. Load posting information will be updated by the Parish to reflect all structural changes, any obsolete structural ratings, or any missing structural ratings.
3. All Parish-owned or maintained bridges which require load posting or closing will be load posted or closed in accordance with the table in the DOTD Load Rating Directives. All DOTD supplied load posting information concerning a bridge has been critically reviewed by the Parish Engineer prior to load posting.
4. All 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 DOTD are noted.
5. All bridges owned and maintained by the Parish are accessible to DOTD for all routine bridge inspections. Parish will clear vegetation as required upon DOTD request.

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These stipulations are prerequisites to participation by the Parish in the Off-System Bridge Replacement Program.

The foregoing resolution was seconded by Mr. Fowler and unanimously approved.

Mr. Bates submitted the following resolution:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS the Bienville Parish will be applying for Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant Program which provides grants for surface transportation infrastructure projects with significant local or regional impact.

WHEREAS the grant for this project may be available through the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) program operated by the U.S. Department of Transportation's (USDOT).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Police Jury of the Bienville Parish that:

Section 1. The Bienville Parish President is hereby authorized to submit a pre-application, application to the U.S. Department of Transportation of behalf of the Bienville Parish Police Jury for the purpose of placing this project on the Project Priority List for funding through the Better Utilizing Investment to Leverage Development grant program; and ,

Section 2. The Bienville Parish President is further authorized to furnish such additional information as may reasonably be requested in connection with the pre-application; and,

Section 3. The Bienville Parish President is hereby designated as the Official Project Representative for the Bienville Parish Police Jury for any project that may result from the submission of the pre-application.

A MOTION TO ADOPT the above resolution was made by Mr. Bates, seconded by Mr. Duck and a roll call was as follows:

YEAS: Sims, Roberson, Ryder, Bates, Fowler, Nelson and Duck.
NAYS: None.
ABSENT: None.

Mr. Fowler made the motion to appoint the following board members: Tyrette Madden and Kennedy Hudson to the Hospital Service District #1, and to appoint Crystal Rabo to the Northwest Louisiana Human Services District. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sims and unanimously approved.

Mr. Sims made the motion to approve the Registrars Travel to her annual conference in Bossier City. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ryder and unanimously approved.

Mr. Duck made the motion to approve the engineering contract for the Ridge Road Capital Outlay project and to authorize the Parish President to sign on behalf of the jury. The Motion was seconded by Ms. Roberson and a roll call was as follows:

YEAS: Sims, Roberson, Ryder, Bates, Fowler, Nelson and Duck.
NAYS: None.
ABSENT: None.

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Mr. Duck submitted the following resolution:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Mr. Johnell Patterson served the people of Bienville Parish faithfully and diligently for over 18 years in District C, his last 5 years as District C Foreman, and;

WHEREAS, Mr. Patterson has decided to retire.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Police Jury of the Parish of Bienville, State of Louisiana, that it does hereby adopt this resolution in appreciation and admiration for the many years of service Mr. Johnell Patterson gave to the Bienville Parish Police Jury.

The resolution was seconded by Ms. Roberson and a roll call was as follows:

YEAS: Sims, Roberson, Ryder, Bates, Fowler, Nelson and Duck.
NAYS: None.
ABSENT: None.

The Secretary informed the jury of a recent invoice received from the Claiborne Animal Clinic charging \$2713.24 for strays that were apparently seized by the Bienville Parish Sheriff's Office. These dogs were spayed/neutered and given vaccinations and medications to apparently prepare these dogs for adoption. These services were not authorized by the Bienville Parish Police Jury. After a brief discussion Mr. Sims made the motion to inform the Claiborne Animal Clinic that only the Bienville Parish Police Jury Secretary/Treasurer has the authority to approve such payments and that the invoice should be sent to the individual that authorized the care for these stray dogs. The motion was seconded by Ms. Roberson and a roll call was as follows:

YEAS: Sims, Roberson, Ryder, Bates, Fowler, Nelson and Duck.
NAYS: None.
ABSENT: None.

Mr. Ryder made the motion to approve all General Fund and Solid Waste Fund bills submitted by the Treasurer and examined by the Finance Committee. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sims and unanimously approved.

Mr. Fowler made the motion to approve all Road Fund bills submitted by the Treasurer and examined by the Road Superintendent and the Public Works Committee. The motion was seconded by Mr. Duck and unanimously approved.

Mr. Bates made the motion to transfer all ARPA Funds to the General Fund as requested by the Treasurer. The motion was seconded by Mr. Fowler and unanimously approved.

There being no further business to come before the jury, and on motion to adjourn by Mr. Fowler, seconded by Ms. Roberson and unanimously approved, President Nelson declared the meeting adjourned, subject to call, until the regular meeting date, February 11, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.

Rodney L. Warren
Secretary

Michael Nelson
President