

**MINUTES OF THE
SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA FLOOD PROTECTION AUTHORITY–EAST
PUBLIC HEARING
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2024**

The Public Hearing was held on Thursday, September 19, 2024, in the St. Bernard Parish Council Chambers, St. Bernard Parish Government Complex, 8201 West Judge Perez Drive, Chalmette, Louisiana, at 10:05 a.m.

PRESENT:

Clay A. Cosse, President
Roy M. Arrigo, Vice President
Deborah M. Settoon, Secretary
William A. Settoon, Jr., Treasurer
Thomas G. Fierke
Richard G. Duplantier, Jr.
K. Randall Noel
Derek N. Rabb

ABSENT:

None

Mr. Cosse read the notice setting forth the purpose of the public hearing:

“Pursuant to Article 7, Section 23(C) of the Louisiana Constitution and R.S. 47:1705(B), a public hearing of the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority – East on behalf of the Lake Borgne Basin Levee District to consider levying additional or increased millage rates without further voter approval or adopting the adjusted millage rates after reassessment and rolling forward to rates not to exceed the prior year’s maximum.”

Mr. Cosse called for public comments. There were no public comments.

There was no discussion.

The public hearing was adjourned at 10:07 a.m.

**MINUTES OF THE
SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA FLOOD PROTECTION AUTHORITY–EAST
BOARD MEETING
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2024**

The regular monthly Board Meeting of the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East (Authority or FPA) was held on September 19, 2024, in the St. Bernard Parish Council Chambers, St. Bernard Parish Government Complex, 8201 West Judge Perez Drive, Chalmette, Louisiana, after due legal notice of the meeting was sent to each Board member and the news media and posted.

Mr. Cosse called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m. and led the pledge of allegiance. Ms. Settoon called the roll and a quorum was present:

PRESENT:

Clay A. Cosse, President
Roy M. Arrigo, Vice President
Deborah M. Settoon, Secretary
William A. Settoon, Jr., Treasurer
Thomas G. Fierke
Richard G. Duplantier, Jr.
K. Randall Noel
Derek N. Rabb

ABSENT:

None

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

A motion was offered by Mr. Rabb and seconded by Ms. Settoon to amend the agenda to add Item XII.A.10 to approve a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA) between City of New Orleans, the FPA and the Orleans Levee District Police Department for the support of Super Bowl LIX related activities.

Joshua Rondeno, Superintendent of Police, advised that the CEA was presented to him two days ago. The Planning Committee for Super Bowl LIX was already in session and conducting meetings. Therefore, it was imperative that the Board approve the CEA as quickly as possible so that the FPA would be afforded a seat at the table and be part of the important planning and collaborations with Federal, State and City of New Orleans partners. Wilma Heaton, Director of Governmental Affairs, advised that the Legal Department reviewed the CEA.

Mr. Cosse called for public comment relative to adding the item to the agenda. There was no public comment. The motion to amend the agenda to add item XII.A.10 for the approval of the CEA for the support of Super Bowl LIX related activities was adopted and the amended agenda was approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 09-19-24-01 - APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING AND BOARD MEETING HELD ON AUGUST 15, 2024

On the motion of Mr. Rabb,
Seconded by Mr. Arrigo, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East approves the Minutes of the Public Hearing and Board Meeting held on August 15, 2024.

The foregoing was submitted to a vote; the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: Mr. Arrigo, Mr. Duplantier, Mr. Fierke, Mr. Noel, Mr. Rabb, Ms. Settoon
and Mr. Settoon

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

SAFETY MINUTE:

Martin Eilers, Director of Risk and Project Management, commented on the impressive planning, coordination and actions by staff, particularly in regards to gate closures, during the Hurricane Francine response.

OPENING COMMENTS BY PRESIDENT AND COMMISSIONERS:

Ms. Settoon advised that she missed the September 19 Board meeting due to a previously scheduled family vacation and commented on the tax debate brought up at the meeting. She explained that she had asked Mr. Arrigo not to distribute his spreadsheet on ad valorem taxes because of the data on which it was based. She pointed out that information on tax millages should be transparent and readily communicated to tax payers in all three parishes (Jefferson, Orleans and St. Bernard) before the Board votes on millage rates. She pointed out that this incident did not make a good impression with Jefferson Parish officials.

Mr. Noel explained that he had the privilege of attending the I-Storm Annual Conference on September 9-11 in Venice, Italy. A demonstration was conducted of the Mose barriers which primarily protect against tidal surge. Visitors also saw the glass barrier that prevents water intrusion in the church in St. Marco Square. Mr. Noel and Malay Ghose Hajra, FPA Chief Engineer, participated in a failure rate exercise at the Conference. The meetings were informative and educational. He thanked the Board for allowing him to attend.

Mr. Arrigo thanked FPA employees for their hard work during Hurricane Francine. He commented that any actions that he took regarding the tax millages were on record and transparent.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Reverend Kaseem Short, representing Thomas United Methodist Church, explained that the developer of the Morgan tract dug an approximately 800-foot long drainage ditch, which was not permitted, near the Mississippi River levee in the 800 block of Reverend Richard Wilson Drive. A permit is required for any construction within 1,500 feet of the Mississippi River Levee. The non-permitted work along the levee was reported to the FPA prior to its completion, but the owners were allowed to complete the ditch. The drainage ditch was dug directly adjacent to a historic African-American cemetery and burial ground that goes back to slavery. The cemetery is still in operation; however, the operators of the cemetery were not consulted. Rev. Short expressed concern about the effects of the soil excavation on the adjacent cemetery and the community relative to flooding.

Rev. Short explained that with Hurricane Francine the Kenner community saw the effects of the failure to properly plan and address issues. They do not want the drainage ditch to affect the community even more. He asked, on behalf of the community, that a quick investigation into this matter be done and that the land be restored to its original condition.

Mr. Cosse asked Rev. Short did he contact the Public Works Department. Rev. Short explained that members of his organization spoke with Public Works Department staff about this concern.

Chris Humphreys, Director of Engineering, advised that a member of Rev. Short's organization brought this issue to the FPA's attention. The developer received a permit some time ago for a development that did not include the drainage ditch. Engineering staff told the developer to stop work on the ditch and that a permit would be needed for the drainage ditch since it was within 1,500 feet of the levee. The ditch is located on the developer's property. The Levee District Police were not notified to stop the work since Engineering staff thought that the developer would stop. However, the developer did not stop work on the ditch.

Mr. Humphreys clarified that the drainage ditch is an unpermitted addition to the development. The FPA notified the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the developer that a permit must be obtained. The developer's design firm will provide the analyses needed to determine whether the drainage ditch will affect the levee. The developer has applied for an amendment to the current permit.

Mr. Cosse asked that Mr. Humphreys provide his contact information to Rev. Short and provide assistance with his request.

Marti Shiffer commented regarding the 40 Arpent Bike Path. She explained she and a friend had cycled along the bike path since the beginning of summer. In early August the cyclists were driven off the path near Alexander Street by a mowing tractor traveling down the center of the path. When the cyclists questioned this action, the tractor operator told them that there was signage stating that equipment and trucks had the

right-of-way. She stated that they had not previously seen any such signage. As they proceeded and neared the foot of Jean Lafitte Parkway, a new sign had been installed stating that users of the path must yield to government vehicles. Later that morning two trucks drove the cyclists off the path and onto the grass. Ms. Shiffer explained that the narrow tires on her bike were not designed for off-road cycling. In addition, there is about a three-inch difference between the asphalt path and the grassy area. Since the grass happened to be dry and not high, damage was minimal.

Ms. Shiffer stated that she had been cycling on bike paths in various parishes for the past 25 years and had never encountered a policy or signage that stated that the users must yield to government vehicles, especially a mowing tractor or pickup truck capable of driving off road. When East Jefferson Levee District Police Officers patrol the levee, they pull their vehicle off the crown of the levee and stop while users pass before resuming.

Ms. Shiffer explained that she worked for the USACE for 30 years and retired as a senior manager. She worked with over a dozen levee districts during her career and had driven thousands of miles of levee. She was familiar with funding, construction and on-going maintenance of levees throughout South Louisiana. Ms. Shiffer researched the funding and purpose of the 40 Arpent Bike Path. The bike path was funded by Federal grants. Shortfall funding was provided by the Meraux Foundation. Everything that she found stated that the purpose of the funding was to provide recreation and safe cycling. The bike path was also part of a bigger plan to enhance recreational and safe cycling in St. Bernard Parish. The FPA policy allowing equipment and trucks to run cyclists off the bike path does not provide for safe cycling.

Ms. Shiffer stated that signage had now been placed throughout the bike path, but this is not the right way to go. Since the bike path was Federally funded, the argument can be made that if the purpose of the path is not the intended purpose (a bike path), it is a violation of appropriations law. She could not find anywhere that the primary, secondary, tertiary or ancillary purpose of the Federal funding was to facilitate movement of maintenance vehicles by the government. If it were not for the bike path, mowing tractors and trucks would either be on grass or crushed limestone.

Ms. Shiffer asked that the Board reconsider the FPA's policy regarding the 40 Arpent Bike Path, remove the signage and government vehicles from the path, and make it safe for users.

Ryan Foster, Engineering Manager, apologized to Ms. Shiffer for any impolite behavior by any FPA employee. He said that he did not know about the incident and had not had a chance to speak to any of the employees. He explained that the 40 Arpent Bike Trail Project was a St. Bernard Parish Government (SBPG) project for which it received Federal Funding. The footprint of the asphalt trail is the same as the alignment of the FPA's crushed limestone All-Weather Access Road (AWAR). The FPA allowed SBPG and the contractor to pave over the AWAR for recreational use with the understanding of its initial purpose. This is the reason for the requirement for pedestrians and cyclists to move aside for FPA vehicles.

Mr. Foster explained that this requirement had not been implemented on the East Jefferson Lakefront Levee. However, moving forward the FPA will attempt to implement the requirement for any new bike paths. The requirement was part of the negotiations between the FPA and SBPG and included in the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement. The requirement not only benefits the FPA, but also St. Bernard Parish Pump Operators. He stated that it was easier for a cyclist or pedestrian to simply step aside than for a vehicle to move aside. Some locations along the Mississippi River Levee have a very steep slope, which would make it difficult for vehicles to move aside.

Mr. Foster further explained that the FPA did not think that this requirement was unreasonable given the recreational benefit received by allowing SBPG to construct a bike path on the flood protection system. Since the policy is different than past policy there may be a learning curve for both the public and FPA employees. He stated that he will discuss with FPA personnel how they are to approach cyclists and pedestrians.

PRESENTATIONS:

None

REPORT BY REGIONAL DIRECTOR:

Kelli Chandler, Regional Director, advised that she attended the I-Storm Annual Conference in Venice, Italy. She attended I-Storm's Delivery Board meeting on September 8 and provided her presentation at the Conference on September 9. I-Storm presented a plaque to the FPA, as well as a book on Venice's Mose barrier system. When Hurricane Francine's cone included New Orleans, Ms. Chandler changed her return flight, flew back to New Orleans and drove directly to the FPA's Emergency Operations Center.

Ms. Chandler thanked FPA employees for their excellent work in responding to Hurricane Francine. She reviewed the track of the hurricane and the FPA's response. A total of 46 land-based floodgates were closed for Hurricane Francine. Crews closed 13 non-essential floodgates on Monday. On Tuesday the remainder of the 46 floodgates were closed. Also, on Tuesday the 24-hour RNA (Regulated Navigation Area) was triggered for the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal (IHNC). The FPA closed the Surge Barrier Sector Gate on Wednesday morning after the 24-hour period expired. The Seabrook Complex was closed mid-day on Wednesday. Hurricane Francine made landfall about 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday. All three Permanent Canal Closures and Pumps (PCCP) pump stations were operated. Pump run times will be provided to the Board for each of the three pump stations. No issues were experienced with the pumps.

Ms. Chandler advised that the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System performed well. USACE staff visited the East Jefferson Foreshore Protection to see the additional erosion that had taken place due to Hurricane Francine. Staff is continuing its monitoring of activity in the Atlantic and the Gulf.

Mr. Noel pointed out that other countries around the world are envious of the storm modeling accuracy that is available to the FPA.

Ms. Settoon advised Ms. Chandler that for legal purposes when she travels, a formal letter of delegation of authority should be executed. She also asked about initiating a formal conversation with the USACE regarding expediting the East Jefferson Foreshore Protection erosion mitigation project due to the additional erosion so that the project can be completed prior to next hurricane season. Ms. Chandler responded that the FPA will definitely have this conversation with the USACE. Thus far, the USACE advised that if the erosion is not up to the AWAR, the foreshore protection is performing as designed.

Mr. Cosse asked that Mr. Humphreys explain the priorities for reopening floodgates after a storm. Mr. Humphreys advised that wind speeds must be below tropical storm force. Crews can then go out at safe light. If possible, the priority gates (railroad and evacuation route) are opened first. The FPA works closely with the Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) regarding reopening evacuation route floodgates. DOTD sometimes does not want certain gates reopened until they have time to clean the roadway. Water levels against floodgates are checked (such as along Lakeshore Drive). If it is safe to do so, the gates are reopened. If not, crews are sent elsewhere and return when the water level drops. The FPA has a total of 245 land-based floodgates. Only 46 floodgates had to be closed for Hurricane Francine.

Ms. Chandler advised that the FPA conducts After Action Reviews (AAR) after a tropical storm/hurricane. Two separate AARs will be conducted for Hurricane Francine, the first with new employees and the second with Levee District Police. An overall AAR will then be conducted. A report will be issued and shared with the Board.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance Committee: Mr. Settoon advised that the Finance Committee did not meet due to personal extenuating circumstances. He noted that Denise Williams, Regional Finance Director, was on vacation; however, her written report was provided to the Board. Mr. Settoon reported that the Fiscal Year 2024 Financial Audit was completed and that there were no exceptions. The Audit Report was anticipated to be provided in the next 30 to 60 days. Finance is attempting to fill several vacant positions. Information was provided in the Regional Finance Director's written report about the roll back/roll forward of Lake Borgne Basin Levee District millage rates.

Mr. Settoon commented that he visited the Franklin Avenue Facility at mid-day on Tuesday, September 10, and everyone was on board and working. He said that he spoke to several directors and other staff members and was impressed that everyone was doing what they were supposed to be doing and things were humming along. Everyone was prepared to stay as long as necessary for Hurricane Francine.

Operations Committee: Mr. Fierke reported that the Operations Committee met on September 18. The Committee recommended that the Board approval all of the items

listed on the agenda under Item XII.B. Engineering and Operations. The Committee also requested that the FPA Engineering Department study the flooding issues involving Floodgate L-18 and the valve in the vicinity of the Lakefront Airport. Engineering staff agreed to have the study performed by a consultant. The flooding issue will be revisited when the study is completed. In addition, during the discussion of Capital Outlay Project requests, a request was made to look five to ten years into the future at the large anticipated projects, such as the seawall steps and levee lifts. This will allow a fuller picture to be presented relative to budgetary and funding needs.

Legal Committee: Mr. Rabb reported that the Legal Committee met prior to the Board meeting. Two items were tabled to the next Legal Committee meeting: 1) review of the FPA Fleet Motor Vehicle Use Policy, and 2) review of the recommendations for revisions/amendments to the Bylaws. The Legal Committee also met in Executive Session to discuss six legal cases. The remaining items listed on the Legal Committee agenda under New Business were referred to the Board.

Special Issues Committee: Ms. Settoon reported that since there was no quorum, the first meeting of the Special Issues Committee was an informational meeting. The Special Issues Committee is tasked with addressing items that the President determines are unique or that would be a distraction to staff. Topics addressed in the meeting included a strategic plan for the FPA, which will primarily be an overall funding strategy, and how the proposed IHNC Surge Barrier Visitor Center will be unfolding.

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION NO. 09-19-24-02 – ROLL BACK OF LBBLD MILLAGE RATES

Mr. Arrigo read aloud the resolution in full. Mr. Cosse pointed out that the Board was required to adopt the resolution to roll back millage rates after the reassessment. A roll call vote was conducted and the Board voted unanimously to adopt the resolution.

On the motion of Mr. Noel,
Seconded by Mr. Cosse, the following resolution was offered:

A RESOLUTION LEVYING AND IMPOSING MILLAGE RATES AND ASSESSMENTS FOR TAX YEAR 2024 ON ALL THE PROPERTY SUBJECT TO TAXATION IN THE LAKE BORGNE BASIN LEVEE DISTRICT

WHEREAS, it is necessary for the Board of Commissioners of the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East, acting as the governing authority of the Lake Borgne Basin Levee District, Louisiana (the “District”), to levy taxes and assessments for the year 2024;

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Commissioners of the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East, acting as the governing authority of the Lake Borgne Basin Levee District of the Parish of St. Bernard, Louisiana, in a public meeting held on September 19, 2024, which meeting was conducted in accordance with the Open Meetings Law and the additional requirements of Article VII, Section 23(C) of the

Louisiana Constitution and R.S. 47:1705(B), that the following **adjusted** millage rates be and they are hereby levied upon the dollar of the assessed valuation of all property subject to ad valorem taxation within said Parish for the year 2024, for the purpose of raising revenue:

Election Date	Type of Tax	Years Authorized	Purpose	2024 Millage Rate
N/A	Ad Valorem	N/A	Constitutional Tax (LA Constitution Article VI, Section 39)	3.910
Oct. 22, 2011	Ad Valorem	2015-2044	Constructing and maintaining necessary levees, levee drainage, flood protection, hurricane flood protection and all other purposes incidental thereto which tax may be used as security for bonds or other evidences of indebtedness to be used to pay costs of such projects	3.060

Local or Forced Contribution. Under the authority of Part II and Sub-Part B of Part VI, Chapter 4, Title 38 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended, and specifically pursuant to LSA-R.S. 38:421 (F) and other constitutional and statutory authority supplemental thereto, a local or forced contribution of Sixty and 00/100 Dollars (\$60.00) per mile of railroad lines within the District is hereby levied and assessed for the year 2024, for the purpose of constructing and maintaining levees, levee drainage, and for all other purposes incidental thereto.

Collection of Taxes. The proper administrative officials of the Parish of St. Bernard, State of Louisiana, are hereby empowered, authorized and directed to spread said taxes and assessment, as set forth above, upon the assessment roll of said Parish for the year 2024, and to make the collection of the taxes and assessment imposed for and on behalf of the District according to law, and the taxes and assessment herein levied shall become a permanent lien and privilege on all the property subject to taxation as herein set forth, and the collection thereof shall be enforceable in the manner provided by law.

Specifically, the Assessor of the Parish of St. Bernard shall extend said taxes and assessment on said assessment roll as required by law, and the Sheriff and ex officio tax collector of the Parish of St. Bernard shall collect said taxes and assessment in the same manner as state taxes are collected and shall settle therefore with the State Treasurer, as provided by Section 404 of Title 38 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended; provided, however the proceeds of any tax levied specifically for payment of general obligation bonds shall be remitted to the District pursuant to

the authority of Section 551.9 of Title 39 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended, and other constitutional and statutory authority.

Certified copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to the St. Bernard Parish Assessor and to the St. Bernard Parish Sheriff and ex officio tax collector as complete authority to levy and collect the taxes and assessment herein provided.

Publication. This resolution shall be published one time in the official journal of the District in the manner provided by law.

The foregoing resolution was read in full, the roll was called on the adoption thereof, and the resolution was adopted by the following votes:

YEAS: Mr. Arrigo, Mr. Cosse, Mr. Duplantier, Mr. Fierke, Mr. Noel, Mr. Rabb,
Ms. Settoon and Mr. Settoon

NAYS: None

ABSTAINED: None

ABSENT: None

RESOLUTION NO. 09-19-24-03 – ROLL FORWARD LBBLD MILLAGE RATES

Mr. Arrigo read aloud the resolution in full.

Ms. Settoon stated that she was opposed to the resolution. She explained that the FPA's long term spending strategic plan was done in 2016. Her personal opinion was that, like for Jefferson and Orleans Parishes, the FPA should not support tax increases until it performs sufficient due diligence and has full accounting for the funds in-house for the FPA's long term obligations.

Mr. Noel advised that, consistent with his vote in Jefferson Parish, he supported the resolution. He explained that costs are increasing and property taxes are designed to cover cost increases.

Ms. Chandler explained that she had spoken with Ms. Williams about this issue. A preliminary reserve analysis was completed about five years ago, which needs to be updated. She stated that since her time with the FPA, St. Bernard Parish has never had the opportunity to roll forward millage rates. The citizens of St. Bernard Parish oftentimes did not pass a tax referendum. She stated that the Lake Borgne Basin Levee District (LBBLD) cannot sustain its flood defense system with its current funding. LBBLD revenues barely cover its Operations and Maintenance (O&M) costs, which do not include new equipment, projects or unanticipated costs. Uniquely in comparison to the East Jefferson and Orleans Levee Districts, the LBBLD absolutely needs the money to maintain the current system, which does not include levee lifts. The difference in revenues is about \$70,000 (approximately \$2.00 per year on a tax bill). She stressed that the LBBLD needs every single dollar.

Mr. Duplantier pointed out that the FPA is not allowed to spend revenues across levee districts.

Mr. Arrigo stated that while the FPA does not have a current strategic plan, the Board had in the past discussed loaning money to the LBBLD and the potential for the loan to be repaid. He stated that he was confident about the math in his spreadsheet that was sent to the Board; however, he welcomed any challenges to the math. He stated that Orleans Parish citizens pay about three times as much as Jefferson Parish citizens for an equal dollar of assessed value and twice as much as St. Bernard Parish citizens for an equal dollar of assessed value for perimeter and surge protection. This does not include internal drainage. He said that he did not come to the meeting with a predisposed idea on how to vote on the millage rates.

Mr. Rabb clarified that the lowest amount that would be added to an annual tax bill would be about \$2.25 and the highest about \$5.00.

Mr. Cosse explained that he came to the meeting prepared to vote against the resolution; however, he listened to the compelling arguments and gave the issue further thought. The flood protection system is a three-parish system. The amount of money paid by citizens of St. Bernard Parish for flood protection pales in comparison to what is paid by the citizens of the other two parishes. A \$70,000 increase parish-wide is not much money. Any penny that the LBBLD can get to keep the levee district operating is needed. Therefore, he supported the resolution.

Mr. Settoon stated that he was a little confused on how the FPA splits revenues. He appreciated the Regional Director's comments. However, he was initially opposed to rolling forward the LBBLD millage rates for two reasons: 1) the Board rolled back millage rates for Jefferson Parish and Orleans Parish at the request of the City Council; and 2) FPA's finances overall are in good order. The additional \$70,000 is a very small percentage of the FPA's total budget. He stated that he was now hearing that there are restrictions regarding spending and asked that someone elaborate on this issue.

Ms. Chandler advised that dollars collected in St. Bernard Parish are spent in St. Bernard Parish, the majority of which are for labor. St. Bernard Parish tax revenues are used to pay for maintaining levees in St. Bernard Parish, projects specific to St. Bernard Parish (e.g., 40 Arpent Canal Sheetwall Rehabilitation), LBBLD facility maintenance, insurance, and any cost specific to the LBBLD. The statute that established the FPA provides that if a capital project benefits more than one district, then it can be paid for by more than one district. The challenge is trying to determine what is considered beneficial to more than one district. She reiterated that currently St. Bernard Parish tax revenues only pay for day-to-day levee (grass cutting) and facility maintenance.

Ms. Chandler pointed out that because water knows no boundaries the flood protection system is regional and the FPA operates regionally. Everything is regional except the majority of the finances, which does not match how the FPA operates.

There was no further discussion. A roll call vote was conducted. The resolution was adopted with Mr. Arrigo, Mr. Cosse, Mr. Duplantier, Mr. Fierke, Mr. Noel, Mr. Rabb and Mr. Settoon voting yea and Ms. Settoon voting nay.

On the motion of Mr. Noel,
 Seconded by Mr. Fierke, the following resolution was offered:

**A RESOLUTION LEVYING AND IMPOSING MILLAGE RATES AND
 ASSESSMENTS FOR TAX YEAR 2024 ON ALL THE PROPERTY SUBJECT TO
 TAXATION IN THE LAKE BORGNE BASIN LEVEE DISTRICT**

WHEREAS, it is necessary for the Board of Commissioners of the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East, acting as the governing authority of the Lake Borgne Basin Levee District, Louisiana (the “District”), to levy taxes and assessments for the year 2024;

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Commissioners of the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East acting as the governing authority of the Lake Borgne Basin Levee District of the Parish of St. Bernard, Louisiana, in a public meeting held on September 19, 2024, which meeting was conducted in accordance with the Open Meetings Law and the additional requirements of Article VII, Section 23(C) of the Louisiana Constitution and R.S. 47:1705(B), that the taxing district voted to increase the millage rate(s), but not in excess of the prior year’s maximum rate(s), on all taxable property shown on the official assessment roll for the year 2024, and when collected, the revenues from said taxes shall be used only for the specific purposes for which said taxes have been levied. Said millage rate(s) are:

Election Date	Type of Tax	Years Authorized	Purpose	Adjusted Rate	2024 Levy
N/A	Ad Valorem	N/A	Constitutional Tax (LA Constitution Article VI, Section 39)	3.910	3.990
Oct. 22, 2011	Ad Valorem	2015-2044	Constructing and maintaining necessary levees, levee drainage, flood protection, hurricane flood protection and all other purposes incidental thereto which tax may be used as security for bonds or other evidences of indebtedness to be used to pay costs of such projects	3.060	3.130

Local or Forced Contribution. Under the authority of Part II and Sub-Part B of Part VI, Chapter 4, Title 38 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended, and specifically pursuant to LSA-R.S. 38:421 (F) and other constitutional and statutory authority supplemental thereto, a local or forced contribution of Sixty and 00/100 Dollars (\$60.00) per mile of railroad lines within the District is hereby levied and

assessed for the year 2024, for the purpose of constructing and maintaining levees, levee drainage, and for all other purposes incidental thereto.

Collection of Taxes. The proper administrative officials of the Parish of St. Bernard, State of Louisiana, are hereby empowered, authorized and directed to spread said taxes and assessment, as set forth above, upon the assessment roll of said Parish for the year 2024, and to make the collection of the taxes and assessment imposed for and on behalf of the District according to law, and the taxes and assessment herein levied shall become a permanent lien and privilege on all the property subject to taxation as herein set forth, and the collection thereof shall be enforceable in the manner provided by law.

Specifically, the Assessor of the Parish of St. Bernard shall extend said taxes and assessment on said assessment roll as required by law, and the Sheriff and ex officio tax collector of the Parish of St. Bernard shall collect said taxes and assessment in the same manner as state taxes are collected and shall settle therefore with the State Treasurer, as provided by Section 404 of Title 38 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended; provided, however the proceeds of any tax levied specifically for payment of general obligation bonds shall be remitted to the District pursuant to the authority of Section 551.9 of Title 39 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended, and other constitutional and statutory authority.

Certified copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to the St. Bernard Parish Assessor and to the St. Bernard Parish Sheriff and ex officio tax collector as complete authority to levy and collect the taxes and assessment herein provided.

Publication. This resolution shall be published one time in the official journal of the District in the manner provided by law.

The foregoing resolution was read in full, the roll was called on the adoption thereof, and the resolution was adopted by no less than two-thirds of the total membership of the taxing authority voting in favor as required by Article VII, Section 23(C) of the Louisiana Constitution and R.S. 47:1705(B). The votes were:

YEAS: Mr. Arrigo, Mr. Cosse, Mr. Duplantier, Mr. Fierke, Mr. Noel, Mr. Rabb and Mr. Settoon
NAYS: Ms. Settoon
ABSTAINED: None
ABSENT: None

RESOLUTION NO. 09-19-24-04 - AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS

Mr. Settoon explained that his proposed amendment (relative to unclassified employees) was a result of his reading the Bylaws and that he was surprised to see that this was not already the case. Mr. Settoon proposed his amendment in conjunction with Mr. Arrigo's proposed amendment regarding publishing the organization chart.

Mr. Fierke offered a technical amendment to the resolution in item 1 to change Section V to Section 5 and in item 2 to state “and when significant changes occur” in lieu of “or when significant changes occur”. The Board accepted the technical amendment.

Ms. Chandler advised that there are four specialized unclassified positions that are not at a director level (three PCCP Managers and a Field Engineer). There are about four layers between these positions and the Regional Director. She asked that the Board consider changing “unclassified employees” to “unclassified directors”.

Mr. Fierke noted that there are other unclassified employees who are not directors (e.g., Executive Counsel). He recommended that the Board proceed with the amendment as proposed and fine tune it when the Bylaws are reviewed for amendment as a whole.

On the motion of Mr. Settoon,
Seconded by Mr. Fierke, the following resolution was offered:

WHEREAS, at the Regular Board Meeting held on December 17, 2009, the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East adopted revised Bylaws; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Board to amend the Bylaws as follows:

1. Remove the first paragraph of Article VI, Section 5 in its entirety and replace it with the following language: “The hiring, termination or change in compensation of any unclassified employee shall require the approval of a majority of the board.”
2. Also remove Article VI, Section 6 in its entirety as it would now be redundant.
3. Replace Article VI, Section 6 with: “Require the Executive Director to publish a detailed organization chart showing reporting responsibilities of all employees, their titles and grade level, designating which are unclassified. The chart should be published on the FPA website, published annually and when significant changes occur.”

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East approves the aforementioned amendments to the Bylaws.

The foregoing was submitted to a vote; the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: Mr. Arrigo, Mr. Duplantier, Mr. Fierke, Mr. Noel, Mr. Rabb, Ms. Settoon
and Mr. Settoon

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion to approve the FPA Fleet Motor Vehicle Use Policy.

Mr. Rabb advised that the motion was tabled.

As a point of information, Mr. Settoon requested that the Regional Director amend the Fleet Motor Vehicle Use Policy to provide a list of positions that are entitled to a take home vehicle.

RESOLUTION NO. 09-19-24-05 - A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA FLOOD PROTECTION AUTHORITY-EAST AUTHORIZING THE RETENTION OF FISHER & PHILLIPS LLP TO PROVIDE LEGAL COUNSEL AND REPRESENTATION FOR LOUISIANA CIVIL SERVICE APPEALS AND OTHER LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT LITIGATION

A motion was offered by Mr. Rabb and seconded by Mr. Arrigo to amend the resolutions for the retention of both Fisher & Phillips LLP and the Lane Law Group, LLC, to allow the Board's Secretary to make any adjustments to the resolutions that are recommended by the FPA's Legal Department in order to bring the resolutions in compliance with the requirements of the Attorney General.

Kirk Ordoyne, Executive Counsel, advised that last year a resolution for legal services had to be brought to the Board three times in order to comply with the requirements of the AG's Office. If the amendment is adopted, changes to the resolution that are required by the AG's Office can be made without going back to the Board.

Mr. Noel noted that the amendment is for changes that are required by the AG, but not substantial changes to the resolution.

The motion offered by Mr. Rabb and seconded by Mr. Arrigo to amend the Fisher & Phillips LLP and the Lane Law Group, LLC, resolutions was unanimously adopted.

On the motion of Mr. Rabb,
Seconded by Mr. Arrigo, the following resolution was offered:

WHEREAS, certain employees filed appeals with Louisiana Civil Service in connection with alleged actions taken by the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East ("FPA"); and

WHEREAS, the aforementioned appeals were submitted to the FPA's Public Officials/Employment Practices Liability insurer for assignment of legal representation for said appeals to insurer's approved labor and employment law firm Fisher & Phillips LLP; and

WHEREAS, Fisher & Phillips began rendering legal services on each of the appeals based on previous assignments by the insurer; and

WHEREAS, new management for the insurer subsequently and untimely denied coverage and payment of legal services for the aforementioned appeals, which are currently pending with Civil Service; and

WHEREAS, the FPA is in the process of appealing the insurer's denial of coverage for the aforementioned appeals; and

WHEREAS, defense of these appeals requires specific legal expertise in the subject matter involved and as such, a real necessity exists to retain outside counsel for legal representation in these cases and any future labor and employment litigation, as needed; and

WHEREAS, Fisher & Phillips was assigned to provide legal services for these appeals based on the insurer's assignment of similar cases in the past; therefore, the firm has the familiarity with the entity and the necessary expertise required for the defense of said appeals; and

WHEREAS, Fisher & Phillips LLP shall be compensated at the insurer's contract rate of \$305.00 per hour for Edward F. Harold, Partner, and \$270.00 per hour for Lawrence J. Sorohan, Of Counsel, in accordance with previous assignments by the insurer, subject to the approval by the Louisiana Attorney General; and

WHEREAS, the date and term of the contract is July 1, 2024 and ending on June 30, 2025, and the total of all sums payable under the contract shall not exceed \$100,000.00 per employee for each Civil Service Appeal filed and/or \$100,000.00 per employee suit filed in any Louisiana or Federal Court with jurisdiction over said employee claims; and

WHEREAS, the scope of this legal representation does not involve federal claims; and

WHEREAS, this resolution shall take effect immediately; and

WHEREAS, in the alternative, if the Louisiana Attorney General denies the approval of payment of the insurer's contract rates to Fisher & Phillips, said firm shall be compensated pursuant to the Louisiana Attorney General's maximum Hourly Fee Schedule of February 16, 2024, which allows:

Rate	Description
\$350.00 per hour	For attorneys having experience of 10 or more in the practice of law
\$275.00 per hour	For attorneys having experience of 5-10 years in the practice of law
\$225.00 per hour	For attorneys having experience of 3-5 years in the practice of law
\$175.00 per hour	For attorneys having experience of less than 3 years in the practice of law
\$80.00 per hour	For Paralegal Services

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East, pursuant to La R.S. 42:262, does hereby authorize the retention of Fisher & Phillips LLP as counsel to represent the FPA on certain Civil Service Appeals in which the insurer denied coverage and any future labor and employment litigation, as needed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners authorizes Executive Counsel to retain the firm of Fisher & Phillips to represent the FPA on said Civil Service appeals and any future labor and employment litigation, as needed, and that the Regional Director is authorized to execute said contract with Fisher & Phillips, LLP.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners ratifies the legal services provided to-date by Fisher & Phillips on the Civil Service Appeals described by this resolution and denied by the insurer.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution and the proposed contract described herein be submitted to the Attorney General for the State of Louisiana for approval.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of the Board is authorized to make any adjustments to this Resolution recommended by the FPA's Legal Department in order to bring said Resolution in compliance with the requirements of the Attorney General.

The foregoing was submitted to a vote; the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: Mr. Arrigo, Mr. Duplantier, Mr. Fierke, Mr. Noel, Mr. Rabb, Ms. Settoon and Mr. Settoon

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

RESOLUTION NO. 09-19-24-06 - A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA FLOOD PROTECTION AUTHORITY-EAST AUTHORIZING THE RETENTION OF LANE LAW GROUP, LLC TO PROVIDE LEGAL COUNSEL FOR INSURANCE COVERAGE LITIGATION

On the motion of Mr. Rabb,

Seconded by Ms. Settoon, the following resolution was offered:

WHEREAS, certain employees filed appeals with Louisiana Civil Service, and filed lawsuits in courts with jurisdiction in Louisiana, in connection with alleged actions taken by the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority- East ("FPA"); and

WHEREAS, a lawsuit captioned Jevin Williams versus Daniel Biggs, the FPA, et al., Case No. 2:21-CV-333 c/w 2:21-CV-334, was filed in the United States District Court Eastern District of Louisiana, in connection with alleged actions taken by the Orleans Levee District Police Department; and

WHEREAS, a lawsuit captioned James Bridges, Sr. v. East Jefferson Levee District, et. al., No. 819-828, was filed in the 24th Judicial District Court, Jefferson Parish, Louisiana, in connection with an automobile accident involving an East Jefferson Levee District employee; and

WHEREAS, the aforementioned appeals and lawsuits were submitted to the FPA's Public Officials/Employment Practices and General Liability insurer, Chubb, for assignment of legal representation for said appeals and lawsuits to insurer's approved law firms; and

WHEREAS, the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East (FPA) has been denied coverage under the FPA's Public Entity Liability and General Liability Policies; and

WHEREAS, Lane Law Group, LLC shall be compensated at the rate of \$275.00 per hour for attorney Michael D. Lane, which is pursuant to and in compliance with the Louisiana Attorney General's maximum Hourly Fee Schedule of February 16, 2024,

Rate	Description
\$350.00 per hour	For attorneys having experience of 10 or more in the practice of law
\$275.00 per hour	For attorneys having experience of 5-10 years in the practice of law
\$225.00 per hour	For attorneys having experience of 3-5 years in the practice of law
\$175.00 per hour	For attorneys having experience of less than 3 years in the practice of law
\$80.00 per hour	For Paralegal Services

WHEREAS, this claim requires specific legal expertise in the subject matter involved and as such, a real necessity exists to retain outside counsel for legal representation in these cases, and

WHEREAS, the date and term of the contract is July 1, 2024 and ending on June 30, 2025, and the total of all sums payable under this contract, including fees and reimbursement of expenses, shall not exceed \$50,000.00 per case; and

WHEREAS, the scope of this legal representation does not involve federal claims; and

WHEREAS, this resolution shall take effect immediately.

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East, pursuant to La R.S. 42:262, does hereby authorize the retention of Lane Law Group, LLC as counsel to represent the FPA on certain insurance coverage matters, as needed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners authorizes Executive Counsel to retain the firm of Lane Law Group, LLC to represent the FPA on said insurance coverage litigation, and that the Regional Director is authorized to execute said contract with Lane Law Group, LLC.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution and the proposed contract described herein be submitted to the Attorney General for the State of Louisiana for approval.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of the Board is authorized to make any adjustments to this Resolution recommended by the FPA's Legal Department in order to bring said Resolution in compliance with the requirements of the Attorney General.

The foregoing was submitted to a vote; the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: Mr. Arrigo, Mr. Duplantier, Mr. Fierke, Mr. Noel, Mr. Rabb, Ms. Settoon and Mr. Settoon

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the United States Marshals Service (USMS) and the Orleans Levee District Police Department for participation in the USMS Fugitive Task Force.

A motion was offered by Ms. Settoon and seconded by Mr. Arrigo to approve the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the United States Marshals Service (USMS) and the Orleans Levee District Police Department (OLDPD) for participation in the USMS Fugitive Task Force.

Joshua Rondeno, Superintendent of Police, explained that the partnership with the USMS would afford the FPA resources in law enforcement that would not ordinarily be available to the FPA. It would also provide on-going training resources for all OLDPD and East Jefferson Levee District Police Department (EJLDPD) Officers.

Mr. Cosse asked about the difference between the USMS task force and Troop NOLA. Superintendent Rondeno advised that the USMS partnership would provide a different set of resources. The USMS and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) partnerships were selected because they encompass all Federal agencies, including the U.S. Coast Guard. The USMS partnership would afford the FPA about seven partnerships in total. The ATF partnership would afford a total of about six partnerships.

Mr. Fierke asked did the training obligate the FPA to incur costs. Superintendent Rondeno explained that no costs would be directly incurred by the agency. Levee District Police Officers were anxious to participate in the partnerships.

Mr. Arrigo asked did the MOU require the Levee District Police Officers to report for work to the task force in lieu of their usual role. Superintendent Rondeno replied, yes. When participating in training or fugitive recovery missions, or when specifically requested by the FPA, the Officers would be attached to the task force. The internal policy is for the MOU to be reviewed annually or when the FPA sees fit to reassess the need. Mr. Arrigo commented that the participation would probably be on-going or long term. Superintendent Rondeno explained that the on-boarding training would last three weeks in two separate sessions (six weeks total) during the first six months. He reiterated that this is a resource that would not readily be available to the FPA; however, the FPA would be afforded this resource through the partnership.

Mr. Arrigo asked how many Officers would be involved in the USMS partnership. Superintendent Rondeno replied, one Officer. Mr. Arrigo stated that this would basically take one Officer out of his/her levee district role and place him/her in a Federal fugitive task force role. Superintendent Rondeno explained that it would be in a mixed environment. The Officer would be assigned away for some period of time either for training or active task force operations; however, he/she would still be employed by the OLDPD. The FPA would have access to the Officer on demand for whatever period of time it deems necessary.

Mr. Noel commented that the primary mission of the OLDPD and EJLDPD is the protection of the flood control structures and participation in storm activities. He asked how did this partnership fit the mission. He also commented that during his early service on the Board, Levee District Police Officers participated in task forces and the participation did not end well. He stated that he wanted the Levee District Police dedicated to the flood control structures and their protection and not working outside of this mission. Mr. Rabb asked how would participation in the task force benefit the FPA.

Superintendent Rondeno explained that the FPA would benefit from training resources and services that would not ordinarily be available to the FPA. He cited recent activities and areas of concern: the graffiti reported last week on the Civil Defense Shelter, gang related activities that may exist in communities located along the flood protection system, which is patrolled by Levee District Police Officers, holiday weekends and gang roundups. The Louisiana State Police (LSP) Fusion Center expected a heavy turnout (over 1,000 people) and gang related activity for a car show and burnout on Lakeshore Drive. The event was postponed because of sitting water behind Shelter 1; however, the Fusion Center is monitoring its rescheduling. At this time the OLDPD and EJLDPD are notified on the tail end; however, these types of partnerships would embed the Levee District Police in these task force-type opportunities. The partnerships directly benefit the public safety of the FPA's flood protection structures and FPA areas of responsibility.

Mr. Fierke stated that Superintendent Rondeno advised that participation would be at no cost to the FPA; however, there would be people on the FPA payroll who are solely dedicated to the task force. He asked for a financial estimate for this participation. Superintendent Rondeno advised that after the Officers are selected, their salaries can be projected and a cost estimated developed for the time that they would be in training or completely separated on task force operations. Mr. Fierke stated that until he could understand the costs, he was opposed to the MOU. He stated that he is a stickler on delegations of authority and questioned whether the delegations of authority allow the Superintendent of Police to sign the MOU.

Mr. Cosse advised that Levee District Police Officers participated for years in FBI task forces. He pointed out that Superintendent Rondeno was only asking for one Officer. He stressed that OLDPD and EJLDPD Officers would receive the benefit of additional training at the cost of one employee. Mr. Cosse expressed his support for the MOU and asked that the Board support it.

Mr. Duplantier stated that this would remove someone from the Levee District Police force to work with another agency. Mr. Cosse stated that this had successfully been done before. Mr. Duplantier disagreed and stated that he did not see the metrics. It may have been a success for the FBI, but not for the FPA and its mission. He stated that the partnership is beyond the FPA's mission.

Superintendent Rondeno reiterated the training requirement (three weeks at two separate times for a total of six weeks). He also reiterated that the MOU would be revisited based on need after a year.

Superintendent Rondeno advised that the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) was in town two weeks ago and that the Levee District Police received a commendation for participating, along with LSP, in Operation Clean House. The FBI Director described this task force as the most successful partnership in recent FBI history. As a result, the FBI has instituted a second operation (Operation Blue Runner). The Assistant Special Agent in Charge (ASAC) in the New Orleans Office contacted Superintendent Rondeno to confirm that the Levee District Officers attended a meeting this morning on the operation and conveyed their anticipation and excitement regarding being on board. Three Federal trainings have been scheduled due to the participation in this operation. The trainings are available to all Levee District Officers. This is an intended partnership with a Federal agency which will provide resources that the FPA would not normally have access to and allows the FPA to invest in Levee District Officers across the board to better enable them to protect and serve the community.

Superintendent Rondeno explained that the FBI task force (Operation Clean House) ran for about three weeks. The new FBI task force (Operation Blue Runner) will take place from September 30 through October 4. However, the FBI training is on-going and available year-round. The USMS task force is up to one year for one person; however, at the FPA's discretion the Officer could be pulled back at any time.

Ms. Settoon asked would the FPA benefit from the proposed training, especially given the high incidents of law suits. Superintendent Rondeno responded, absolutely, yes. He explained that the exposure to different types of training that could be offered agencywide would be a supplemental means to limit liability, which is secondary to the ultimate goal of flood protection.

Mr. Settoon clarified that the FPA's cost is limited to the compensation for the employee. Superintendent Rondeno responded that Mr. Settoon was correct. The salary for the Officer assigned to the USMS task force is the FPA's responsibility. Mr. Settoon pointed out that compensation includes salary (2/3 of the cost) and benefits.

Mr. Settoon asked that Superintendent Rondeno expand again on what the FPA would receive as a result of the partnership with the USMS. Superintendent Rondeno explained that the FPA would receive Federal resources that it would not ordinarily have access to, such as, criminal history searches, background checks, criminal intelligence with regards to gang activity and crime trends. He pointed out the example that he provided earlier regarding a social media post involving several hundred people who intended to come onto Lakeshore Drive and have a burnout contest, which inherently attracts criminal activity. Receiving these resources in advance of this type of event allows the Police to properly plan to protect the communities they are charged to serve.

Mr. Arrigo asked was Superintendent Rondeno saying that information regarding events such as the Lakeshore Drive burnout contest would be withheld from the FPA if it does not participate in the task force. Superintendent Rondeno responded that the information would not be readily available to the FPA because it did not have an Officer

embedded on a fulltime basis with the LSP. He was not willing to incur the cost of an Officer being embedded with LSP on a full-time basis for the purpose of gathering intelligence. However, the USMS has a full-time officer embedded with the LSP operation. A properly trained Levee District Police Officer embedded with the task force, as deemed necessary, would have access to pooled resources.

Mr. Arrigo asked about the criteria for selecting the Officer for the USMS and ATF task forces. Superintendent Rondeno explained that the selection is completely stat (statistics) driven. He stated that he would use his command staff to help make the best decision. Superintendent Rondeno was ultimately responsible for the choice.

Wilma Heaton, Director of Governmental Affairs, advised that the Metropolitan Crime Commission will be presenting an award to some OLDPD Officers who participated on a task force. These are tangible opportunities for community outreach that provide multiple benefits.

Mr. Ordoyne pointed out that additional beneficial resources could be made available, such as access to license plate recognition (LPR) software. Superintendent Rondeno explained that LPR would be one of the major assets that the FPA would be able to onboard as a result of the two partnerships (USMS and ATF). LPR technology could be made available that could tag the vehicle of a suspect or known offender and alert the dispatcher, supervisors and officers on duty. The OLDPD could geofence Lakeshore Drive and know instantly when someone who may be a wanted or a violent offender enters the Lakeshore Drive area or adjacent neighborhoods where Officers are assigned to Special Details.

Mr. Rabb clarified that after training the Officers would not be truly assigned to the USMS or ATF since they are needed by the FPA. Superintendent Rondeno clarified that the assignment of the Officers would be at the FPA's discretion. This is the first time that the FPA is being introduced to the USMS task force. Outside of the training regiments (three consecutive weeks twice), the FPA can pull the Officer back for as long as needed at the FPA; e.g. during storm season, Mother's Day and holidays, or anytime that manpower may be an issue. He stated that the benefit to the FPA is far greater than the benefit to the Federal agency.

A roll call vote was conducted. Mr. Cosse, Mr. Rabb and Ms. Settoon voted yea, Mr. Arrigo, Mr. Duplantier, Mr. Fierke and Mr. Noel voted nay, and Mr. Settoon abstained. The motion failed.

Motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Orleans and East Jefferson Levee District Police Departments for participation in the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Multi–Agency/ Safe Neighborhoods / Multi-Agency Gang Task Force.

A motion was offered by Mr. Rabb and seconded by Ms. Settoon to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the ATF and the Orleans and East Jefferson

Levee District Police Departments for participation in the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Multi–Agency/ Safe Neighborhoods / Multi-Agency Gang Task Force.

Superintendent Rondeno explained that the ATF task force is more specific to safe neighborhoods and would afford resources to help serve the communities. It would be an investment in Levee District Officers, the agency and law enforcement, as well as increase efficiency and accountability. The MOU with the ATF is a two-year commitment; however, it is not a full-time on-going commitment. Mr. Fierke noted that the MOU needed to be modified to reflect that it is not a two-year on-going commitment of an Officer. Superintendent Rondeno clarified that neither of the two MOUs provided for a separation of Officers. The OLDPD's and EJLDPD's primary mission is flood protection. There would be times when an Officer would be called back even within the two-year period, such as emergency activations during hurricane season or other situations as deemed appropriate by the Superintendent of Police.

Mr. Fierke pointed out that the ATF MOU was for a period of four years with a two-year commitment. Superintendent Rondeno advised that the MOUs were presented for discussion and that edits could be made. Both MOUs were subject to review annually and could be terminated with thirty days' notice. Mr. Fierke noted that the MOU with the ATF provided for 90 days' notice.

Mr. Duplantier stated that the MOU takes resources away from the FPA. Mr. Noel stated that the ATF MOU was in the same vein as the USMS MOU and called the question on the motion.

A roll call vote was conducted. Mr. Cosse, Mr. Rabb and Ms. Settoon voted yea, Mr. Arrigo, Mr. Duplantier, Mr. Fierke and Mr. Noel voted nay, and Mr. Settoon abstained. The motion failed.

Mr. Rabb suggested that the timeframe during which the Police Officers would be away from the FPA be better defined.

RESOLUTION NO. 09-19-24-07 – REQUEST FOR LOUISIANA ATTORNEY GENERAL LEGAL OPINION ON WHETHER FLOOD PROTECTION TAX REVENUES CAN BE SPENT FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES.

Ms. Settoon explained that she requested that the proposed resolution be placed on the agenda because the FPA's authorizing statutes state that the FPA can spend money only on flood protection. Mr. Noel concurred regarding the request for an AG opinion.

Mr. Settoon suggested that the request may be premature since the FPA is in the midst of seeking advisors to help design a facility. The FPA does not know how much of the facility, if any, will be for educational purposes. Ms. Settoon advised that she was told that it may take six months to receive an AG's opinion. If the visitors center component must be divided from the O&M component, it would be better if that was done at this time.

The letter requesting the AG opinion will be drafted by the Executive Counsel. Mr. Settoon stated that he would like to have Board members review the draft letter to the AG requesting a formal opinion.

On the motion of Ms. Settoon,
Seconded by Mr. Arrigo, the following resolution was offered:

WHEREAS, the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East (“FPA”) is the governing authority of the Orleans Levee District (“OLD”), the East Jefferson Levee District (“EJLD”) and the Lake Borgne Basin Levee District (“LBBLD”); and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Constitution Art. VI, §39, authorizes levee districts to levy a tax on all property not exempt from taxation for the purpose of constructing and maintaining levees, levee drainage, flood protection, hurricane flood protection, and for all other purposes incidental thereto; and

WHEREAS, the SLFPA-E Board wishes to seek a formal opinion from the Louisiana Attorney General as to whether flood protection tax revenues can be spent for educational purposes such as a Visitor Center or a Research Center.

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the SLFPA-E Executive Counsel is authorized to request a formal opinion from the Louisiana Attorney General as to whether flood protection tax revenues can be spent for educational purposes.

The foregoing was submitted to a vote; the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: Mr. Arrigo, Mr. Duplantier, Mr. Noel, Mr. Rabb, Ms. Settoon and
Mr. Settoon

NAYS: Mr. Cosse and Mr. Fierke

ABSENT: None

RESOLUTION NO. 09-19-24-08 – CEA WITH THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS FOR THE SUPPORT OF SUPER BOWL LIX RELATED ACTIVITIES

Superintendent Rondeno explained that the proposed CEA would allow the FPA to have a seat at the table with the Planning Committee relative to the New Orleans Lakefront Airport, the thoroughfares directly related to the FPA’s jurisdiction and overall planning throughout the City. The CEA is a result of the relationship with the FBI task force. He advised that he received the CEA on September 17 and that the next meeting of the Planning Committee will be held on September 23. Therefore, it was imperative that the Board consider adopting the resolution without delay. The Lakefront Airport Director is participating in the Planning Committee meetings, but not from a police perspective.

Mr. Arrigo stressed the importance of the CEA with regards to Lakefront Airport and its role with the Super Bowl.

Mr. Settoon asked are Levee District Police Officers provided for the Lakefront Airport and would more be provided for the Super Bowl. Superintendent Rondeno explained that Levee District Police Officers are not provided on an on-going basis (posted) to the Lakefront Airport. OLDPD Officers respond to Lakefront Airport calls for service. As

part of the CEA, some funding would come through the City of New Orleans and a contingency of Police Officers would be posted at the hangars overnight and prior to and after Super Bowl events.

On the motion of Mr. Arrigo,
Seconded by Ms. Settoon, the following resolution was offered:

WHEREAS, the City of New Orleans (City) is a political subdivision of the State of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the Flood Protection Authority - East is a political subdivision of the State of Louisiana and a levee district pursuant to *Article 6, Section 38* and *Section 38.1 of the Constitution of Louisiana*; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to *Article 7, Section (14)(C) of the Louisiana Constitution of 1974*, and related statutes, and *Section 9-314 of the Home Rule Charter of the City of New Orleans*, the City may enter into cooperative endeavors with the State of Louisiana, its political subdivisions and corporations, the United States and its agencies, and any public or private corporation, association, or individual with regard to cooperative financing and other economic development activities, the procurement and development of immovable property, joint planning and implementation of public works, the joint use of facilities, joint research and program implementation activities, joint funding initiatives, and other similar activities in support of public education, community development, housing rehabilitation, economic growth, and other public purposes; and

WHEREAS, the City is hosting Super Bowl LIX (the “**Super Bowl**”) on February 9, 2025, which qualifies as a special event under *La. R.S. 33:2337*; and

WHEREAS, Super Bowl-related activities will commence from February 2, 2025, through February 10, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the Superintendent of the New Orleans Police Department has determined that it is in the best interest of the City to have an enhanced police presence during the time period in which Super Bowl-related activities will take place; and

WHEREAS, the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between City of New Orleans, the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East and the Orleans Levee District Police Department provides the terms and conditions relative to participation in the police support for Super Bowl LIX related activities; and

WHEREAS, the Orleans Levee District Police Department’s participation in the aforementioned effort will improve public safety, homeland security and reduce crime; and

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East approves the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between the City of New Orleans, the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East (FPA) and the Orleans Levee District Police Department for the support of Super Bowl LIX related activities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the FPA President, on behalf of the FPA, and the FPA Superintendent of Police, on behalf of the Orleans Levee District Police Department, are hereby authorized to execute the aforementioned Cooperative Endeavor Agreement.

The foregoing was submitted to a vote; the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: Mr. Arrigo, Mr. Duplantier, Mr. Fierke, Mr. Noel, Mr. Rabb, Ms. Settoon and Mr. Settoon

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

RESOLUTION NO. 09-19-24-09 - SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA FLOOD PROTECTION AUTHORITY-EAST CAPITAL OUTLAY PROGRAM FUNDING REQUEST

A motion was offered by Mr. Fierke and seconded by Mr. Rabb to round the request for funding for the International Center for Storm Surge Barrier Research, Public Education and Satellite Maintenance Facility to \$15 million.

Ms. Settoon asked if the request included previously spent moneys or architectural services. Mr. Fierke responded that this is purely a request for Capital Outlay Program (COP) funding. Ms. Heaton pointed out that if COP funding is obtained, a local match will be required.

The amendment offered by Mr. Fierke and seconded by Mr. Rabb was unanimously adopted. Mr. Fierke noted that the Operations Committee recommended that the Board approve the FPA COP request.

On the motion of Mr. Fierke,
Seconded by Mr. Rabb, the following resolution was offered:

WHEREAS, the State of Louisiana Capital Outlay Program (COP) funding applications are required to be submitted by November 1, 2024, with a Resolution requesting sponsor funding; and

WHEREAS, the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East (FPA) has projects that require funding from the COP in order to initiate design and/or construction phases of said projects.

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the FPA by this Resolution formally requests the State of Louisiana COP to fund the following FPA projects for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 in the amounts shown:

LAKEFRONT AIRPORT FLOOD PROTECTION PLANNING, DESIGN AND PERMIT ANALYSIS - \$30,000,000

INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR STORM SURGE BARRIER RESEARCH, PUBLIC EDUCATION AND SATELLITE MAINTENANCE FACILITY - \$15,000,000

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the FPA does hereby certify, in accordance with the State Capital Outlay Act, the following:

1. There is no bond funding, other than State general obligation bond funding, sufficient to fund the above Capital Outlay request.
2. All local options for funding for this Capital Outlay request through taxation, special assessments, loans, bonds, or other resources have been considered and rejected as not being feasible or readily acceptable at this time.
3. There is no revenue source for these non-recurring project appropriations.
4. No surplus and/or unobligated funds are available.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the FPA is committed to providing a local project match to the extent it is economically able to for the amounts required/recommended and necessary by the State.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the FPA Regional Director or Director of Engineering be authorized to sign any and all documents necessary to accomplish the above.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the FPA Regional Director or Director of Engineering is hereby authorized and designated to act on behalf of FPA in all matters pertaining to the aforementioned project for which Capital Outlay funds are being requested including requests for State disbursements.

The foregoing was submitted to a vote; the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: Mr. Arrigo, Mr. Duplantier, Mr. Fierke, Mr. Noel, Mr. Rabb, Ms. Settoon and Mr. Settoon

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

RESOLUTION NO. 09-19-24-10 - EAST JEFFERSON LEVEE DISTRICT- CAPITAL OUTLAY PROGRAM FUNDING REQUEST

Mr. Fierke advised that the Operations Committee recommended that the Board approve the East Jefferson Levee District COP request.

On the motion of Mr. Fierke,

Seconded by Mr. Noel, the following resolution was offered:

WHEREAS, the State of Louisiana Capital Outlay Program (COP) funding applications are required to be submitted by November 1, 2024, with a Resolution requesting sponsor funding; and

WHEREAS, the East Jefferson Levee District (EJLD) has projects that require funding from the COP in order to initiate planning, design, land acquisition and construction phases of said projects.

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East (FPA) on behalf of the EJLD by this Resolution formally requests the State of Louisiana COP to fund the following EJLD project for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 in the amounts shown:

ORPHEUM SLOPE PAVING AND LEVEE MODIFICATIONS - \$3,400,000

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the EJLD does hereby certify, in accordance with the State Capital Outlay Act, the following:

1. There is no bond funding, other than State general obligation bond funding, sufficient to fund the above Capital Outlay request.
2. All local options for funding for this Capital Outlay request through taxation, special assessments, loans, bonds, or other resources have been considered and rejected as not being feasible or readily acceptable at this time.
3. There is no revenue source for these non-recurring project appropriations.
4. No surplus and/or unobligated funds are available.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the EJLD is committed to providing a local project match to the extent it is economically able for the amounts required/ recommended and necessary by the State.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East (FPA) Regional Director or Director of Engineering be authorized to sign any and all documents necessary to accomplish the above.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the FPA Regional Director or Director of Engineering is hereby authorized and designated to act on behalf of EJLD in all matters pertaining to the aforementioned Project for which Capital Outlay funds are being requested including requests for State disbursements.

The foregoing was submitted to a vote; the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: Mr. Arrigo, Mr. Duplantier, Mr. Fierke, Mr. Noel, Mr. Rabb, Ms. Settoon and Mr. Settoon

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

RESOLUTION NO. 09-19-24-11 - LAKE BORGNE BASIN LEVEE DISTRICT CAPITAL OUTLAY PROGRAM FUNDING REQUEST

Ms. Settoon asked about the location of the proposed safe house. Mr. Foster advised that the proposed safe house was for LBBLD staff and would be located adjacent to the Office Building in Violet, LA. He pointed out that applications for COP funding have a bearing on applications for other grants.

On the motion of Mr. Noel,

Seconded by Mr. Fierke, the following resolution was offered:

WHEREAS, the State of Louisiana Capital Outlay Project (COP) funding applications are required to be submitted by November 1, 2024, with a Resolution requesting sponsor funding; and

WHEREAS, the Lake Borgne Basin Levee District (LBBLD) has projects that require funding from the COP in order to initiate planning, design, land acquisition and construction phases of said projects.

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East on behalf of the LBBLD by this Resolution formally requests the State of Louisiana COP to fund the following LBBLD project for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 in the amounts shown:

LAKE BORGNE BASIN LEVEE DISTRICT SAFE HOUSE - \$4,200,000

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the LBBLD does hereby certify, in accordance with the State Capital Outlay Act, the following:

1. There is no bond funding, other than State general obligation bond funding, sufficient to fund the above Capital Outlay request.
2. All local options for funding for this Capital Outlay request through taxation, special assessments, loans, bonds, or other resources have been considered and rejected as not being feasible or readily acceptable at this time.
3. There is no revenue source for these non-recurring project appropriations.
4. No surplus and/or unobligated funds are available.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the LBBLD is committed to providing a local project match to the extent it is economically able for the amounts required/ recommended and necessary by the State.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East (FPA) Regional Director or Director of Engineering be authorized to sign any and all documents necessary to accomplish the above.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the FPA Regional Director or Director of Engineering is hereby authorized and designated to act on behalf of LBBLD in all matters pertaining to the aforementioned Project for which Capital Outlay funds are being requested including requests for State disbursements.

The foregoing was submitted to a vote; the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: Mr. Arrigo, Mr. Duplantier, Mr. Fierke, Mr. Noel, Mr. Rabb, Ms. Settoon and Mr. Settoon

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

RESOLUTION NO. 09-19-24-12 - ORLEANS LEVEE DISTRICT CAPITAL OUTLAY PROGRAM FUNDING REQUEST

On the motion of Mr. Fierke,
Seconded by Mr. Rabb, the following resolution was offered:

WHEREAS, the State of Louisiana Capital Outlay Program (COP) funding applications are required to be submitted by November 1, 2024, with a Resolution requesting sponsor funding; and

WHEREAS, the Orleans Levee District (O.L.D.) has projects that require funding from the COP in order to initiate design and/or construction phases of said projects.

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East on behalf of the O.L.D. by this Resolution formally requests the State of Louisiana COP to fund the following O.L.D. project for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 in the amounts shown:

BAYOU BIENVENUE SECTOR GATE SECURITY AND OPERATION FACILITY - \$2,750,000

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the O.L.D. does hereby certify, in accordance with the State Capital Outlay Act, the following:

5. There is no bond funding, other than State general obligation bond funding, sufficient to fund the above Capital Outlay request.
6. All local options for funding for this Capital Outlay request through taxation, special assessments, loans, bonds, or other resources have been considered and rejected as not being feasible or readily acceptable at this time.
7. There is no revenue source for these non-recurring project appropriations.
8. No surplus and/or unobligated funds are available.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the O.L.D. is committed to providing a local project match to the extent it is economically able to for the amounts required/ recommended and necessary by the State.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East (FPA) Regional Director or Director of Engineering be authorized to sign any and all documents necessary to accomplish the above.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the FPA Regional Director or Director of Engineering is hereby authorized and designated to act on behalf of O.L.D. in all matters pertaining to the aforementioned Project for which Capital Outlay funds are being requested including requests for State disbursements.

The foregoing was submitted to a vote; the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: Mr. Arrigo, Mr. Duplantier, Mr. Fierke, Mr. Noel, Mr. Rabb, Ms. Settoon and Mr. Settoon

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

RESOLUTION NO. 09-19-24-13 - SELECTION OF A FIRM TO PROVIDE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES FOR THE PROPOSED INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR STORM SURGE BARRIER RESEARCH, PUBLIC EDUCATION AND SATELLITE MAINTENANCE FACILITY

Mr. Fierke advised that the Operations Committee discussed at some length the selection of the architect for the proposed International Center for Storm Surge Barrier Research, Public Education and Satellite Maintenance Facility. The Operations Committee accepted the selection team's recommendation (scoring matrix) to retain Waggonner & Ball Architects and recommended that the Board approve the selection and retention of the firm. A requirement of the Operations Committee was that Waggonner & Ball Architects have a public meeting to explain their architectural design concept for the project.

Ms. Heaton explained that she was asked to provide information regarding potential opportunities for collaborations. Information was provided to the Board relative to a potential collaboration with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service on a Proposed Visitor Education Center at the Bayou Sauvage National Wildlife Refuge. Ms. Heaton advised that Pon Dixon, Manager of the Bayou Sauvage National Wildlife Refuge, and Mark Schexnayder, Senior Planning Scientist for Coastal Environments, Inc., were at the meeting to answer questions and introduce themselves to staff.

On the motion of Mr. Fierke,
Seconded by Mr. Settoon, the following resolution was offered:

WHEREAS, the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East (FPA) adopted Resolution No. 01-18-24-02 on January 18, 2024, directing FPA staff to develop a project scope, including cost estimates, for the proposed International Center for Storm Surge Barrier Research, Public Education and Satellite Maintenance Facility, to present to the Board for review, input, including additions and/or deletions to the scope, and approval; and

WHEREAS, the FPA also adopted Resolution No. 01-18-18-24 on January 18, 2024, authorizing the advertisement and issuance of a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for architectural services, including project design and project management, for the International Center for Storm Surge Barrier Research, Public Education and Satellite Maintenance Facility, subject to and upon Board approval of project scope for the facility; and

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 04-18-24-03, adopted on April 18, 2024, the FPA approved the scope of services for the proposed project; and

WHEREAS, the six Statements of Qualifications submitted in response to the RFQ were reviewed and competitively rated by a selection team; and

WHEREAS, the selection team recommended the selection of Waggonner & Ball Architects to provide architectural services for said project.

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East approves the recommendation of the selection team and selects Waggonner & Ball Architects to provide architectural services for the proposed International Center for Storm Surge Barrier Research, Public Education and Satellite Maintenance Facility.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the FPA Regional Director, or in his/her absence the Director of Engineering, is hereby authorized to execute the contract with Waggoner & Ball Architects as stated above, and any and all other documents necessary to accomplish the above.

The foregoing was submitted to a vote; the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: Mr. Arrigo, Mr. Duplantier, Mr. Fierke, Mr. Noel, Mr. Rabb, Ms. Settoon and Mr. Settoon

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

RESOLUTION NO. 09-19-24-14 - DISASTER DEBRIS MONITORING IN ACCORDANCE WITH FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA) GUIDELINES (RFQ 2024-002)

Mr. Fierke explained that FEMA requires that the disposal of disaster debris be monitored in accordance with its guidelines. The Operations Committee recommended that the Board approve the selection of Rostan Solutions, LLC and Thompson Consulting Services to provide Disaster Debris Monitoring. Mr. Humphreys advised that both firms had excellent Statements of Qualifications, were retained by a number of local municipalities and had extensive experience.

On the motion of Mr. Arrigo,

Seconded by Mr. Fierke, the following resolution was offered:

WHEREAS, there is a need to have an Indefinite Delivery-Indefinite Quantity (ID-IQ) Contract(s) in place for the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East (FPA) and the levee districts under its jurisdiction to pre-qualify contractors for future competitive bidding for monitoring services after a storm or other qualifying event requires subsequent debris management and disposal services; and

WHEREAS, a Request for Qualifications was published in the Times Picayune and the Daily Journal of Commerce to pre-qualify contractors for competitive bidding after a storm or other qualifying event; and

WHEREAS, the firms have been verified as qualified per FEMA guidelines and the proposal process will be conducted in accordance with FEMA requirements.

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that Rostan Solutions, LLC and Thompson Consulting Services be allowed to contract with the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority–East to provide a proposal for Disaster Debris Monitoring.

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the FPA Regional Director, or in her absence the Director of Engineering, be authorized to sign a Contract and any and all other documents necessary to carry out the above.

The foregoing was submitted to a vote; the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: Mr. Arrigo, Mr. Duplantier, Mr. Fierke, Mr. Noel, Mr. Rabb, Ms. Settoon and Mr. Settoon

NAYS: None
ABSENT: None

Mr. Settoon requested that a convex safety mirror, or other appropriate device, be installed on the lakeside of Franklin Avenue and Lakeshore Drive because it is a dangerous intersection. He advised that he would provide a resolution regarding this request for the next meeting.

Mr. Cosse noted that at the Operations Committee meeting a request was made for signage at the West End of Lakeshore Drive to redirect traffic when the floodgate at that location is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

1. Police matters in anticipation of litigation.

A motion was offered by Mr. Arrigo, seconded by Ms. Settoon and unanimously adopted for the Board to convene in Executive Session to discuss the matter listed on the agenda. The Board convened in Executive Session at 12:15 p.m.

A motion was offered by Mr. Noel, seconded by Mr. Arrigo and unanimously adopted for the Board to reconvene in Regular Session at 12:54 p.m.

The next regular monthly Board meeting will be held on October 17, 2024.

There was no further business; therefore, the meeting was adjourned at 12:55 p.m.