

MINUTES
Of the Regular Meeting, of
The Claiborne Parish Police Jury
10:00 a.m.
February 10, 2021
Police Jury Chambers
507 West Main Street
Homer, LA 71040

NOTICE While this is a public meeting and open to the public – the Claiborne Parish Police Jury will be limiting attendance to the meeting based on 50% of the Fire Marshall’s state capacity of 72. The CPPJ will also strongly suggest/encourage that all of those in attendance wear a mask or face covering and to practice social distancing. The CPPJ requests that if you have a fever, shortness of breath, cold, sniffles or flu-like symptoms that you do NOT attend this public meeting. The CPPJ plans to stream this meeting live via our Facebook Page @ClaiborneParish (barring any technical difficulties). Public questions and/or comments can be texted to (318)518-8490 during the meeting. All agendas, notices and minutes of the CPPJ can be found on our website at www.claiborneparish.org

The Claiborne Parish Police Jury met in regular session in the Jury Chambers of the Claiborne Parish Police Jury Complex, located at 507 West Main Street in Homer, LA at 10:00 a.m. on the 10th of February 2021. On being called to order by President, Scott Davidson, the following Jurors were present:

James Laird, Mark Furlow, Kevin Gray, Mary McDaniel, Paul Cook, Joseph Merritt, Jr., Tommy Sanders, and Gill Dowies.

Juror Rev. Willie Young, Sr. was absent.

There were 12 others in attendance which included, Secretary-Treasurer Dwayne R. Woodard, Parish Road Superintendent Tommy Durrett, Parish Coroner Dr. Mark Haynes, District Attorney Danny Newell, Mr. John Monzingo of the LSU Ag-Center, CMMC CEO Mrs. Tina Haynes, Director of Nursing Mrs. Kristi Copeland, Parish Engineer Randall Smoak, Mrs. Kathy Hightower and Ms. Jackie Tripp of the Guardian Journal Newspaper, Regional Representative of Senator John Kennedy’s Office Mr. Murphy Chestnut, and Mr. Mark Crenshaw of Homer.

The meeting was opened with a word of Prayer led Joseph Merritt, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Paul Cook.

Upon motion by Kevin Gray, duly seconded by Paul Cook, the Jury unanimously voted to adopt the Regular Agenda as presented.

Upon motion by Gil Dowies, duly seconded by Mark Furlow, the Jury unanimously approved to amend the agenda and add the following items:

1. Request from Road Superintendent Tommy Durrett to surplus the 2009 F750 Dump Truck with 8yd dump bed VIN ending #V122910 via a sealed bids due Monday March 8, 2021
2. Request from Evergreen Fire Protection District, in a letter received February 9, 2021, requesting that the Jury appointment Greta Beale of 1361 Mims Road, Minden, LA to fill the unexpired term of Marvin Ethridge of 376 Pistol Thomas Road, Haynesville LA whose term expires on December 31, 2021.
3. Request from Evergreen Fire Protection District, in a letter received February 9, 2021, requesting that the Jury re-appoint Lavetra Johnson of 754 Evergreen School Road, Minden, LA for a two-year term that expires on December 31, 2022.

Upon motion by Mary McDaniel, duly seconded by James Laird, the Jury unanimously approved the following consent agenda:

Consent Agenda

1. Approval of the January 13, 2021 regular meeting minutes.
2. Payment of the January 2021 bills as approved by the Claims Committee

President Scott Davidson requested that the Jury handle the amendments to the agenda at this time.

Upon motion by Mark Furlow, duly seconded by James Laird, the Jury unanimously approved, upon recommendation from the Road Committee, to surplus the 2009 F750 Dump Truck with 8 yd dump bed with VIN ending #V122910. The Jury will accept qualified sealed bids that are due by 2:00 pm on Monday, March 8, 2021. The minimum bid for this vehicle shall be \$8,000.

Upon motion by Gil Dowies, duly seconded by Tommy Sanders, the Jury unanimously approved the request from the Evergreen Fire Protection District, in a letter received February 9, 2021, requesting that the Jury appoint Greta Beale of 1361 Mims Road, Minden, LA to fill the unexpired term of Marvin Ethridge of 376 Pistol Thomas Road, Haynesville, LA whose term expires on December 31, 2021.

Upon motion by Tommy Sanders, duly seconded by Gil Dowies, the Jury unanimously approved the request from the Evergreen Fire District, in a letter received February 9, 2021, requesting that the Jury re-appoint Lavetra Johnson of 754 Evergreen School Road, Minden, LA for a tow-year term that expires on December 31, 2022.

Regular Agenda

President Scott Davidson read aloud the notice that all Parish Employees are required to complete one (1) hour of Ethics training by December 31, 2021.

President Scott Davidson reminded everyone that one (1) hour of Preventing Sexual Harassment Training is required to be completed by December 31, 2021 by all Parish Employees – Department Heads and Jury Officers are required to have two (2) hours of training.

President Scott Davidson read aloud the notice that the 2021 PJAL Convention has been postponed until May 12-14 and will be held at the Crowne Plaza in Baton Rouge, LA. If you are interested in attending, please contact Leigh Ann or Shelia.

Upon motion by Paul Cook, duly seconded by Kevin Gray, the Jury unanimously awarded the following legally advertised, lowest qualified bids for the period ending December 31, 2021 on the purchase of culverts (all types) as follows:

FOR CULVERT BIDS AWARDED FOR 2021

N-12 – HDPE TYPE - CORRUGATED DUAL WALL CULVERTS

DIAMETER	Southwest –AR
4”	\$1.40
6”	2.45
8”	3.15
10”	4.55
12”	4.90
15”	6.65
18”	8.75
24”	14.70
30”	21.00
36”	28.00
42”	40.25
48”	47.60
54”	N/A
60”	80.50

2½x1 or 3x1 or 5x1 – CORRUGATION – 10GA CORRUGATED METAL CULVERTS

<u>DIAMETER</u>	Southwest - AR
12"	N/A
15"	N/A
18"	N/A
24"	N/A
30"	N/A
36"	56.83
48"	75.50
60"	94.64
72"	114.36

2½x1 or 3x1 or 5x1 – CORRUGATION – 12GA CORRUGATED METAL CULVERTS

<u>DIAMETER</u>	Southwest - AR
12"	N/A
15"	N/A
18"	23.33
24"	38.45
30"	37.43
36"	44.78
48"	59.50
60"	75.24
72"	89.76

2½x1 or 3x1 or 5x1 – CORRUGATION – 14GA CORRUGATED METAL CULVERTS

<u>DIAMETER</u>	Southwest – AR
12"	11.44
15"	13.69
18"	16.13
24"	21.38
30"	26.63
36"	31.69
48"	42.19
60"	53.25
72"	63.38

Upon motion by Mary McDaniel, duly seconded by Kevin Gray, the Jury unanimously approved Resolution 2021-007 – A Resolution Approving the 2020 Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire for the Police Jury’s 2020 Audited Financial Records.

RESOLUTION 2021-007

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE LOUISIANA COMPLIANCE QUESTIONNAIRE FOR THE 2020 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire is to be completed and must be presented to and adopted by the governing body by means of a formal resolution; and

WHEREAS, the completed questionnaire and a copy of the adoption instrument, must be given to the auditor at the beginning of the audit; and

WHEREAS, the auditor will, during the course of the regular audit, test the accuracy of the responses in the questionnaire;

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Claiborne Parish Police Jury APPROVES the completed Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire relating to the Parish's 2020 audited financial statements.

Upon a motion by Mary McDaniel and duly seconded by Kevin Gray this motion was carried and officially adopted by the Claiborne Parish Police Jury meeting in regular session convened on Wednesday, February 10, 2021.

Yeas – (9) Laird, Furlow, Gray, McDaniel, Cook, Davidson, Merritt, Sanders and Dowies

Nays – (0) None

Abstain – N/A

Absent – (1) Young

/s/Dwayne R. Woodard
Secretary-Treasurer

/s/Scott Davidson
President

Upon motion by Gil Dowies, duly seconded by James Laird, the Jury unanimously approved the re-appointment of Dr. Sam Abshire and Dr. W. Mark Haynes to the board of the Claiborne Parish Hospital Service District No. 3 for a two-year term expiring on December 31, 2022. These re-appointments will be effective immediately.

Upon motion by Gil Dowies, duly seconded by Mark Furlow, the Jury unanimously approved Resolution 2021-008 – A Resolution Requesting Help from the Claiborne Parish Legislators Concerning the Amount of Properties Being Adjudicated to the Claiborne Parish Police Jury on an Annual Basis of which the Police Jury has No Tax Interest In.

RESOLUTION 2021-008

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING HELP FROM THE CLAIBORNE PARISH STATE LEGISLATORS CONCERNING THE AMOUNT OF PROPERTIES BEING ADJUDICATED TO THE CLAIBORNE PARISH POLICE JURY ON AN ANNUAL BASIS OF WHICH THE CLAIBORNE PARISH POLICE JURY HAS NO TAX INTEREST IN

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Revised Statutes requires the adjudication to the Parish immovable property on which the property taxes were not paid and which the property was not purchased at the subsequent tax sale; and

WHEREAS, once the property is adjudicated to the Parish, it will not come up for another tax sale; and

WHEREAS, the adjudicated property can only be redeemed (back in the name of the tax debtor), or sold by the Parish with clear title through an expensive and ineffective abandoned adjudicated process (such as Civic Source) or declared needed by the Parish for Public purposes; and

WHEREAS, the vast majority of these abandoned properties that are being adjudicated to the Parish for non-payment of taxes are overgrown lots and derelict homes that are located within the incorporated limits of the Towns of Homer and Haynesville and are exempt from Parish taxes under the current La Homestead Exemption laws and only subject to municipal property tax at the time of non-payment and adjudication; and

WHEREAS, the Parish has NO tax interest in the properties but is expected to upkeep and maintain these abandoned adjudicated properties to an extent that they are not deemed to be a public health or safety hazard to neighboring homes and residents; and

WHEREAS, five years ago the Parish had less than 10 (ten) of these abandoned adjudicated properties and now that number stands at 65 (sixty-five) after the 2020 tax sale; and

WHEREAS, this issue has not only become a financial burden to Claiborne Parish but also to our neighboring parishes and to all rural parishes throughout the State;

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Claiborne Parish Police Jury REQUESTS of our Claiborne Parish Legislative Delegation to address this growing problem and to formulate a plan that is equitable, efficient and cost effective for selling/redeeming abandoned adjudicated property and issuing a clear merchantable title on said property.

Upon a motion by Gil Dowies and duly seconded by Mark Furlow this motion was carried and officially adopted by the Claiborne Parish Police Jury meeting in regular session convened on Wednesday, February 10, 2021.

Yeas – (9) Laird, Furlow, Gray, McDaniel, Cook, Davidson, Merritt, Sanders and Dowies

Nays – (0) None

Abstain – N/A

Absent – (1) Young

/s/Dwayne R. Woodard
Secretary-Treasurer

/s/Scott Davidson
President

Upon motion by James Laird, duly seconded by Kevin Gray, the Jury unanimously approved Resolution 2021 – 009 – Resolution of Appreciation for Mrs. Janis Daniel for Forty-Five Years of Public Service to the Claiborne Parish Library Board of Control.

RESOLUTION 2021-009

IN HONOR
A RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION & GRATITUDE
PRESENTED TO MRS. JANIS DANIELS
MEMBER OF THE CLAIBORNE PARISH LIBRARY BOARD OF CONTROL

WHEREAS, the Claiborne Parish Police Jury wishes to officially recognize JANIS DANIELS for her outstanding dedication to the Claiborne Parish Library Board of Control and to the Claiborne Parish Library and citizens of Claiborne Parish during her forty-five (45) years of public service; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Daniels was appointed to the Library Board January 18, 1975, and has served in this capacity continuously until December 2020.

WHEREAS, Mrs. Daniels served in several capacities on the Library Board and provided an outstanding example of leadership, personal integrity and a devotion to personally serving the needs the Library Board and the Claiborne Parish Library

WHEREAS, the members of the Claiborne Parish Police Jury, and members of the current Claiborne Parish Library Board, wish to officially thank Janis Daniels for her distinguished public service to the citizens of Claiborne Parish by serving faithfully on the Library Board;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the members of the Claiborne Parish Police Jury meeting in regular session on this the 10th day of February 2021, that it wishes to record for

posterity in the Minutes of the Claiborne Parish Police Jury, that they commend and extend their thanks to Janis Daniels for her work to promote Claiborne Parish Library through her years of serving as a faithful member of the Claiborne Parish Library Board of Control.

Upon a motion by James Laird and duly seconded by Kevin Gray this motion was carried and officially adopted by the Claiborne Parish Police Jury meeting in regular session convened on Wednesday, February 10, 2021.

Yeas – (9) Laird, Furlow, Gray, McDaniel, Cook, Davidson, Merritt, Sanders and Dowies

Nays – (0) None

Abstain – N/A

Absent – (1) Young

/s/Dwayne R. Woodard
Secretary-Treasurer

/s/Scott Davidson
President

At this time President Scott Davidson presented the items from the Roads Committee.

Upon motion by Paul Cook, duly seconded by Gil Dowies, the Jury unanimously approved, upon recommendation of the Roads Committee, the Police Jury’s new cell phone reimbursement policy that the Jurors and other named essential personnel will qualify for a monthly reimbursement or per diem in amount of \$60 per month for being enrolled in the Parish and State’s Emergency Responder Cell Phone Service/Plan. Currently that plan is with FirstNet through AT&T.

Upon motion by Kevin Gray, duly seconded by Mark Furlow, the Jury unanimously approved, upon recommendation from the Roads Committee, the replacement of the ROV and District Attorney (\$51,360), and the CID building roofs (\$100,599). The work will be done by Brazos Industries out of Baton Rouge, LA.

Upon motion by Tommy Sanders, duly seconded by Gil Dowies, the Jury unanimously approved, upon recommendation from the Roads Committee, the hiring of (2) Hwy Dept Employees (Mechanic Helper and Truck Driver) thru Manpower.

At this time, Claiborne Parish Coroner Dr. Mark Haynes, gave his monthly Coroner’s report. There were 16 deaths. (8) Hospice/ER related, (2) CMMC, (2) sent for autopsy, (3) on scene and the Parish had (2) CEC’s for January.

ITEM #18 – February 10, 2021 – AGENDA

SECRETARY-TREASURER – UPDATE ON GRANTS AND OTHER ITEMS

1. LGAP Projects –

No open grant contracts at this time.

2. CWEF Projects

South Claiborne Water System
Contract #1516-CWEF-CLB-0001
PO #2000288442
Amount - \$31,000
Project – Replacement of water lines
Status – Contracts signed and approved

Summerfield Water System
Contract #1819-CWEF-CLB-0001
PO #2000441879
Amount - \$16,200
Project – Repairs at central pump station and installation of master meter
Status – Contracts signed and approved, work has started

3. Sales Tax Collections for December 2020 – net of \$59,467 from gross collections of \$61,099
Net sales tax collections for November 2020 – \$38,135 – increase \$21,332 (55.94%)
Net sales tax collections for December 2019 - \$55,418 – increase \$4,049 (7.31%)

4. Cash position at January 31, 2021 - \$10,038,937
Cash position at December 31, 2020 - \$8,873,952 (increase of \$1,164,985)
Cash position at January 31, 2020 - \$9,243,655 (increase of \$795,282)

See Deposit Balances by Institution for breakdown at January 31, 2021 –

5. Total Receipts for the month of January 2021 – \$1,812,023.75

6. Upcoming important dates and meetings –

2/11 – Claiborne Parish Economic Development Board Meeting
2/16 – Construction Progress Meeting @ CID
2/23 – Construction Progress Meeting @ CID
2/25 - CPHSD#3 Board Meeting
3/1 – Committee Meetings (tentative)
3/2 - Construction Progress Meeting @ CID
3/9 – Construction Progress Meeting @ CID
3/10 – Regular Meeting

Additional Public Comments:

Dr. Mark Haynes gave an update on the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. He stated that the cases have greatly improved since December and that there were only between 3 or 4 cases currently in the hospital. The CMMC ICU has been at full capacity some of these ICU patients were COVID cases however most were not. Our hospital has been able to help out neighboring hospitals with helping to house patients. COVID vaccinations are becoming more widespread. Dr. Haynes recommends that if you fall into the Phase age groups, to get your vaccination. He also stated that if you feel like you are not sure, check with your doctor and see if he feels it is safe for you to do so. Dr. Mark closed his comments by telling those in attendance that while things have improved, we are still in a serious medical crisis and now is not the time to drop our guard. He also stated that as soon as his family members qualify to receive their vaccinations, they will receive the shot as well.

CMMC CEO Tina Haynes gave her monthly update on the hospital. She stated, the hospital is receiving vaccinations on a regular basis. Right now, age groups are 65 years and older, who are eligible to receive their shot. CMMC has reached out to all of the area churches, schools, etc. They are keeping an ongoing list of those requesting the vaccines. Mrs. Haynes updated jurors on the Opioid Unit that is slated to be licensed on Friday and open for business on Monday. Mrs. Tina Haynes expressed her gratitude and thank to our District #11 Representative Patrick Jefferson, who has made calls and worked hard to help get this unit opened. Mrs. Haynes stated that Representative Jefferson is a great friend of CMMC and he does a lot for our community. She told the Jurors that the Judges and DA have reached out to her wanting to know when they will be able to send individuals that qualify to the CMMC Opioid Unit. Mrs. Haynes stated that she hopes to be expanding the unit within 6 months with the need for this type of care. We are excited to open this part of CMMC. This unit will begin with inpatient services and expand to outpatient services.

Agent John Monzingo gave an update on the happenings in AgCenter and 4-H office and the upcoming events in the parish – including the Fern Sale, Shooting Sports and Master Gardener offerings.

Upon motion by Tommy Sanders, duly seconded by Paul Cook the meeting was adjourned.

Dwayne R. Woodard
Secretary–Treasurer

Scott Davidson
President