

MINUTES
Of the Regular Meeting, of
The Claiborne Parish Police Jury
10:00 a.m.
March 6, 2024
Police Jury Chambers
507 West Main Street
Homer, LA 71040

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 Wednesday the 6th of March 2024. On being called to order by President, Scott Davidson, the following Jurors were present:

Larry Ford, Mark Furlow, Kevin Gray, Mary McDaniel, Paul Cook, Joseph Merritt, Gil Dowies and Rev. Willie Young, Sr.

There were 25 others in attendance which included, Secretary-Treasurer Dwayne R. Woodard, Parish Co-Road Superintendents Chad Verdin and Brant Cupp, Claiborne Parish Sheriff Sam Dowies and CPSO Chief Deputy Brian Driscoll, Director of Libraries Mrs. Pam Suggs, Library Historian Wesley Harris, District Attorney Danny Newell, Parish Digital Navigator Jerry Hilledge, CMMC CEO Tina Haynes, Parish Coroner Dr. Mark Haynes, OOCs Executive Director April Childress, Mrs. Emmalee Tingle and Ms. Crystal Owen of Claiborne Electric, CPPJ Hwy Dept retiree Mike Ellis, Claiborne Parish Fire District 4 Board member Ronald Day, Claiborne Chamber of Commerce Director Pat Abshire, David Greene of Republic Services, Claiborne DART Representative Mrs. Cynthia Johnson, Town of Homer Recreation Director Terry Willis, LADOTOD District 4 Engineer David North, Claiborne Journal Editor Paige Nash, Bro. Steve Fowler of the Homer Cornerstone Church, Mr. Jerry Whitton, and Jerry Strahan, Jr.

There was a Road Committee Meeting held at 9:00 am in the Police Jury Conference Room.

President Scott Davidson called the meeting to order.

The meeting was opened with a word of Prayer led by Rev. Willie Young, 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 Joseph Merritt, duly seconded by Kevin Gray, the Jury unanimously approved the following consent agenda:

Consent Agenda

1. Approval of the February 7, 2024, regular meeting minutes as published in the Official Journal.
2. Payment of the February 2024 bills as approved by the Claims Committee.
3. Request from Town of Haynesville, in a letter received February 22, 2024, requesting (1) one load of SB2, (1) one load of cold mix, and (1) load of red clay mix to be delivered to the Town's city shop located on Spring Street. The work will be done under the Town's ad valorem tax credit.
4. Request from the Village of Athens, in a letter received February 26, 2024, requesting assistance from the CPPJ Hwy Dept. in cutting a dead tree located on Liles Road. The work will be done under the Village's ad valorem tax credit.
5. Request from the Homer Golf Club, in a letter received February 28, 2024, requesting assistance from the CPPJ Hwy Dept. with certain maintenance issues on their road. The work will be done on a reimbursement basis.

At this time, President Scott Davidson updated everyone on the recent visit to Claiborne Parish from the US Speaker of the House, the Honorable Mike Johnson. President Davidson stated that the Jury was humbled to be invited and to host to a meeting for Speaker of the House Johnson who invited other parish community leaders for an update on the challenges that we are facing in Washington. President Scott Davidson was pleased to see that Speaker of the House Mike Johnson still found the time to meet with leaders of the surrounding communities to listen to their concerns and needs. To our knowledge, this was the first US Speaker of the House to visit Claiborne Parish.

Regular Agenda

President Scott Davidson read aloud a notice that all Parish Employees are required to complete one (1) hour of ethics training by December 31, 2024.

President Scott Davidson reminded everyone that one (1) hour of Preventing Sexual Harassment Training is required to be completed by December 31, 2024, by all Parish Employees – Department Heads and Jury Members have a two (2) hour training requirement.

President Scott Davidson reminded all Jurors that their personal financial disclosure statements for 2023 are due by May 15, 2024.

President Scott Davidson read aloud a notice that there will be small premium increase for the Police Jury’s Dental Plan with DINA Dental for the 2024-2025 fiscal year, effective June 1, 2024. The cost will be as follows per month - employee Only \$33.06, plus spouse \$65.00, plus child(ren) \$71.54 and plus family \$107.20. This elective coverage and the employee bears 100% of the cost.

President Scott Davidson read aloud a notice that there will be NO premium increases for the Police Jury’s Vision Plan with CEC Vision for the 2024-2025 year. The cost will be as follows per month - employee only \$10.19, plus spouse \$20.37, plus child(ren) \$21.39, and plus family \$30.56. This is elective coverage and the employee bears 100% of the cost.

President Scott Davidson read aloud a notice that 2024-2025 Claiborne Parish Population Estimate as of submitted by the LSU AgCenter Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness, Dr. Troy C. Blanchard from the LSU Department of Sociology is 13,526. (Prior year was 13,681 - a decrease of 155 or -1.13%).

At this time, President Scott Davidson recognized Truck Driver Mike Ellis who retired from the CPPJ Hwy Dept on January 19, 2024. Mr. Ellis worked for the Hwy Department on two separate occasions 2006-2008 and 2015-2024. President Scott Davidson and the Jurors presented Mike Ellis with a jacket for his years of service to the Parish.

Upon motion by Kevin Gray, duly seconded by Paul Cook, the Jury unanimously adopted Resolution 2024-009 – A Resolution Authorizing the President and Secretary-Treasurer to Sign Documents on Behalf of the CPPJ Concerning the Donation of Parcel No. 8730000655 Located on East Second Street to the Town of Homer.

RESOLUTION 2024-009

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY-TREASURER TO SIGN DOCUMENTS ON BEHALF OF CLAIBORNE PARISH CONCERNING THE DONATION OF PARCEL No. 8730000655 LOCATED ON EAST 2ND STREET (OLD STORAGE BLDG)

WHEREAS, the Claiborne Parish Police Jury has declared Parcel No. 8730000655 to be surplus on June 6, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Homer has expressed interest in using said property as a storage shed for Town equipment and vehicles; and

WHEREAS, the Parish has no further use for the building and deems it to be in a severe state of disrepair; and

WHEREAS the Parish feels that this donation would be of benefit to the residents of the Town of Homer;

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Claiborne Parish Police Jury AUTHORIZES the President, Scott Davidson and/or Secretary-Treasurer, Dwayne R. Woodard, to sign and execute all documents on behalf of the Claiborne Parish Police Jury in relation to the disposition of the said property to the Town of Homer, Louisiana.

Upon a motion by Kevin Gray and duly seconded by Paul Cook this motion was carried and officially adopted by the Claiborne Parish Police Jury meeting in regular session convened on Wednesday, March 6, 2024.

Yeas – (10) Ford, Furlow, Gray, McDaniel, Cook, Davidson, Cooper, Merritt, Dowies, and Young.

Nays – (0) None

Abstain – N/A

Absent – None

/s/Dwayne R. Woodard
Secretary-Treasurer

/s/Scott Davidson
President

Upon motion by Kevin Gray, duly seconded by Mary McDaniel, the Jury unanimously approved, upon recommendation from the Garage Committee, the request from co-Road Superintendents Brant Cupp and Chad Verdin for the Jury to advertise for bids for the purchase of a Large New Dump Truck (14-16 Yard dump bed) for use by the CPPJ Hwy Dept.

Upon motion by Rev. Willie Young, Sr., duly seconded by Mary McDaniel, the Jury unanimously accepted the proposed roads for the Parish’s 2024 Chip and Seal Road Program.

2024 PROPOSED CHIP SEAL LIST

	<u>1-SHOT</u>	<u>2-SHOT</u>	<u>3-SHOT</u>
BELL BOUY RD			0.6 Tenths
CALLOWAY RD			0.2 Tenths
WASHINGTON RD			0.2 Tenths
DANSBY RD		1.2 MILES	
MCVICKER RD		0.4 TENTHS	
ABERCROMBIE RD	2.0 Miles		
HARRIS RD	2.3 Miles		
LANGFORD RD	1.2 Miles		
GOODWIN LAKE RD	0.4 Tenths		
FELLOWSHIP RD	1.2 Miles		
BURNS RD	0.4 Tenths		
HOLLENSHEAD RD	1.0 Mile		

END PT RD	0.2 Tenths
GREEN ACRES RD	0.5 Tenths
LAKE SIDE RD	0.5 Tenths
PINE TOP RD	0.1 Tenths
MILLERTON RD	1.2 Miles
OWENS MCLUNG RD	1.7 Miles
CAMP RD	0.5 Tenths
BUCK PRINCE RD	0.3 Tenths
BARNES RD	2.0 Miles
TUGGLE RD	0.2 Tenths
PAUL ODOM RD	1.5 Miles
ARLINGTON RD	1.1 Miles
SUMLIN RD	0.1 Tenth

TOTAL MILES 1-SHOT 18.4 Miles 2-SHOT 3.2 Miles 3-SHOT- 3 Miles

TOTAL COST ESTIMATE = \$510,000

Upon motion by Gil Dowies, duly seconded by Joseph Merritt, the Jury unanimously voted to renew the lease with DART for use of office space in the CPPJ-OOCS Building located at 621 South Main St., Homer, LA in the amount of \$350 per month. (same as 2023)

Upon motion by Mary McDaniel, duly seconded by Rev. Willie Young, Sr., the request from Secretary-Treasurer Dwayne R. Woodard to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the Louisiana Military Department, Office of Cyber Security which will enable GOHSEP to perform a Cyber Readiness Assessment of the CPPJ Systems. This is a free service offered to the Parish through GOHSEP.

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

Upon motion by Gil Dowies, duly seconded by Paul Cook, the Jury unanimously approved upon recommendation from the Road Committee to hire Mr. Toby Page as a full-time Mechanic Helper effective 3/14/2024 at rate of \$12.50 per hour with benefits. (Mr. Page has been working for the Jury through Man-Power for the past two months)

Upon motion by Kevin Gray, duly seconded by Paul Cook, the Jury unanimously approved, upon recommendation from the Road Committee, to declare surplus the 1994 Mack Dump Truck VIN ending in and to list the vehicle for auction on GOVDEALS.COM.

Upon motion by Kevin Gray, duly seconded by Paul Cook, the Jury unanimously approved, upon recommendation from the Road Committee, to declare surplus the 2000 Mack Dump Truck VIN ending, but to keep the truck in service until the new dump truck arrives. At that time a decision will be made on how to list the truck for disposition (placed on GOVDEALS.COM, Mt. Olive Auction or have advertised in the paper for bid).

Upon motion by Kevin Gray, duly seconded by Paul Cook, the Jury unanimously approved to fence in and install cameras at the roll-off dumpsters located at the Old Road Barn at 4070 Hwy 79 in Homer. The dumpsters will be fenced off from the rest of the property, which will allow the equipment storage area to be secured and locked. Signage will also be posted warning individuals of a possible fine of \$500 fine for illegal dumping.

At this time, Claiborne Parish Coroner Dr. Mark Haynes, gave his monthly Coroner's report - there were 19 deaths for the month of February in the Parish - (12) Hospice/ER, (2) CMMC, (1) other, (2) on scene with no autopsy, and (2) that required autopsies. His office had (2) CECs for the month.

Dr. Mark Haynes gave his update on the clinics and CMMC for the month of February. There has been an uptick of COVID with mild-moderate symptoms. Occasionally there will be an admit to the hospital for COVID with other health related issues. They are still seeing the flu sporadically in the clinics and at the hospital.

ITEM #25 – March 6, 2024 – AGENDA

SECRETARY-TREASURER – UPDATE ON GRANTS AND OTHER ITEMS

1. LGAP Projects –

Claiborne Parish Police Jury
FY2022-2023 LGAP Grant
Amount \$100,000
Project – Roof rehab/repair CPPJ Admin Building
Status – Contract signed and approved by the State.

2. CWEF Projects -

Pinehill Water System
FY2020-2021 CWEF Grant
Amount - \$21,225
Project – Water line extension E D White Road area
Status – Contract signed and approved by the State.

South Claiborne Water System
FY2022-2023 CWEF Grant
Amount - \$100,000
Project – Owens Booster Station Project (Hwy 146)
Status – Contract received and approved by the State.

3. Sales Tax Collections for Jan 2024 – net of \$55,094 from gross collections of \$56,613
Net sales tax collections for Dec 2023 – \$78,621 – decrease \$-23,57 (-29.92%)
Net sales tax collections for Jan 2023 - \$68,678 – decrease \$-13,584 (-19.78%)

4. Cash position on February 29, 2024 - \$11,495,083
Cash position on January 31, 2024 - \$11,367,908 (increase of \$127,175)
Cash position on February 28, 2023 - \$11,176,562 (increase of \$318,521)

See Deposit Balances by Institution for breakdown on February 29, 2024 –

5. Total Receipts for the month of February 2024 – \$625,137

6. Upcoming important dates and meetings –

3/25 – Tentative date for committee meetings (if needed)
3/28 – CPHD #3 Board meeting
3/28 – CPWSD Board meeting
3/29 – Good Friday (offices closed)
4/3 – Agenda items due
4/10 – Regular Meeting

Additional Public Comments:

District 4 DOTD Director David North instructed the Police Jury to keep its equipment off State of Louisiana Highways during icy conditions. District Two Juror Mark Furlow explained the situation from the Jury’s standpoint and that 3 days after the event there was still over and inch of solid ice on all roads, but State and Parish and it presented a public safety factor for EMS and law enforcement vehicles. President Davidson reiterated the fact that in extreme events the Jury would do what was necessary to ensure the public safety. After a very heated discussion between Mr. North and District 2 Juror Mark Furlow, District 10 Juror Rev. Willie Young, Sr.

recommended that the Jury obtain advice on this issue from the District Attorney and our State Representative and Senator, along with the Governor's Office so that we can help serve and protect the citizens of Claiborne Parish during a severe winter storm emergency. (They welcome our help during times of tornados, windstorms and flooding to help clear and open state-maintained highways.)

Rev. Willie Young, Sr. thanked Secretary Treasurer Dwayne Woodard for setting up the meeting with Speaker of the House Mike Johnson. Rev. Young stated that the Speaker has done a great job representing this area and he wanted to thank him for coming.

DART Director Cynthia Johnson asked the Jurors for help find meeting places for her to reach further into the rural areas of the Parish. President Scott Davidson told her to get with each community center to see if they would be available.

Upon motion by Kevin Gray, duly seconded by Mark Furlow the meeting was adjourned.

Dwayne R. Woodard
Secretary-Treasurer

Scott Davidson
President