

MINUTES  
Of the Regular Meeting, of  
The Claiborne Parish Police Jury  
10:00 a.m.  
March 8, 2023  
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 8th of March 2023. On being called to order by President, Scott Davidson, the following Jurors were present:

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

District 1 Juror James Laird and District 10 Juror Rev. Willie Young were absent.

There were 18 others in attendance which included, Secretary-Treasurer Dwayne R. Woodard, Interim Parish Road Superintendents Chad Verdin and Brant Cupp, Director of Libraries Mrs. Pam Suggs, Library Historian Wesley Harris, District Attorney Danny Newell, CMMC CEO Tina Haynes, Parish Coroner Dr. Mark Haynes, Town of Homer Selectman and Main Street Director Jimmy Hand, OOC Director April Childress, 4-H Parish Chair Lee Faulk, Assistant County Agent Destiny Hightower, Assistant County Agent John Monzingo, District #33 Senator Stewart Cathey, Jackie Roberts with the Guardian Journal, Mr. Tommy Durrett, Mrs. Linda Mozeke, and Mr. Jerry Whitton of Homer.

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 Joseph Merritt, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Paul Cook.

Upon motion by Joseph Merritt, duly seconded by Mark Furlow, the Jury unanimously voted to adopt the Regular Agenda as presented.

Upon motion by Gil Dowies, duly seconded by Mary McDaniel, the Jury unanimously amended the regular agenda to add the following items:

1. Request from the Town of Homer, in a letter dated March 1, 2023, requesting the Police Jury's help to replace two culverts on 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. Estimated cost of the project is \$8,867. Work will be done on a reimbursement basis.
2. Request from the Village of Athens, in a letter dated March 1, 2023, requesting the Police Jury's assistance in repairing the parking lot at MOCS and the repair of potholes on Baker and Pike Streets. The work will be done under the village's ad valorem tax credit.
3. District 33 State Senator Stewart Cathey wishes to address the Police Jury.

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

**Consent Agenda**

1. Approval of the February 8, 2023, regular meeting minutes.
2. Payment of the February 2023 bills as approved by the Claims Committee.

3. Request from the CPSB, in a letter received on February 28, 2023, requesting assistance with constructing and maintaining a bus turnaround at or near 131 Peaceful Pines Drive. The work is to be done on a reimbursement basis.
4. Request from Summerfield High School, in a letter dated February 28, 2023, requesting a load of crushed concrete for the Ag Shop parking lot. The work is to be done on a reimbursement basis.

At this time, President Scott Davidson gave the floor to District 33 State Senator Stewart Cathey for an update. Senator Cathey addressed the Jurors and those in attendance on the happenings in our district and in Baton Rouge and closed with the good news that due to a state-wide budget surplus that the Jury should be in line for additional line-item monies again this year and to be sure to forward him our wish list. Last year we received \$300,000 for the purchase of road materials.

President Scott Davidson asked the Jurors to handle the amendments at this time.

Upon motion by Paul Cook, duly seconded by Gil Dowies, the Jury unanimously approved, the Town of Homer's request, in a letter dated March 1, 2023, requesting the Police Jury's help in replacing two culverts on 2<sup>nd</sup> street. Estimated cost of the project is \$8,867. This will be done a reimbursement basis.

Upon motion by Paul Cook, duly seconded by Mark Furlow, the Jury unanimously approved, the request from the Village of Athens, in a letter dated March 1, 2023, requesting the Police Jury's assistance in repairing the parking lot at the MOCS and the repair of potholes on Baker and Pike Streets. The work will be done thru the Village of Athen's Ad Valorem Tax Credit.

### **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, 2023.

President Scott Davidson reminded everyone that one (1) hour of Preventing Sexual Harassment Training is required to be completed by December 31, 2023, by all Parish Employees – Department Heads and Jury Members have a two (2) hour training requirement.

President Scott Davidson reminded all Jurors that the registration for the PJAL Convention is open and begins today thru March 10, 2023, at the Shreveport Convention Center.

President Scott Davidson reminded all Jurors that their personal financial disclosure statements for 2022 are due by May 15, 2023.

President Scott Davidson read aloud a notice that the Police Jury's Dental Plan with DINA Dental will have no premium increases for the 2023-2024 year. The cost will be as follows per month: Employee Only \$31.48, plus spouse \$61.90, plus child(ren) \$68.14 and plus family \$102.10. This is an elective coverage and the employee bears 100% of the cost.

President Scott Davidson read aloud a notice that the Police Jury's Vision Plan with CEC Vision for the 2023-2024 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 an elective coverage and the employee bears 100% of the cost.

Per a letter dated February 22, 2023, the Claiborne Parish Police Jury has been awarded FY 2020-2021 CWEF Grant in the amount of \$21,225. (Pinehill Water System-E D White Road Extension)

President Scott Davidson read aloud a notice that the 2023-2024 Claiborne Parish Population Estimate as submitted by the LSU AgCenter Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness and Dr. Troy C. Blanchard from the LSU Department of Sociology is 13,681. (Prior year 14,106 a decrease of 425 or -3.01%)

Upon motion by Paul Cook, duly seconded by Joseph Merritt, the Jury unanimously awarded, upon recommendation by the Road Committee, the lowest qualified legally advertised bid for the purchase of a new 6–8-yard dump truck to Old River Mack/Volvo in the amount of \$118,531. Secretary-Treasurer Dwayne Woodard stated that Co-Road Superintendents Chad Verdin, Brant Cupp, and Mechanic Bryon Burham have reviewed both bids received, along with exact specs, in which both bids were equal. (The other bid was by Kenworth of Shreveport) The new truck is scheduled to be received in January of 2024.

At this time, upon motion of Kevin Gray, duly seconded by Paul Cook, the Jury unanimously tabled the Presentation of the 2023 Road Program Chip and Seal List until next month’s meeting.

At this time, upon motion of Mark Furlow, duly seconded by Gil Dowies, the Jury unanimously tabled the Presentation for the Comp-Time Policy for the employees of the Claiborne Parish Police Jury until next month’s meeting at the request of Secretary-Treasurer Woodard.

At this time, President Scott Davidson presented the motions to the Jury from the Road Committee.

Upon motion by Gil Dowies, duly seconded by Tommy Sanders, the Jury unanimously voted, upon recommendation from the Road Committee, to nominate Jerry Hillidge as Digital Navigator for the Claiborne Parish Police Jury.

Upon motion by Mark Furlow, duly seconded by Paul Cook, the Jury unanimously voted, upon recommendation from the Road Committee, to hire Mr. Roy Lewis thru the normal hiring process for part-time summer help (seasonal non-exempt) at \$12.00 per hour effective immediately.

Upon motion by Gil Dowies, duly seconded by Mary McDaniel, the Jury unanimously voted, upon recommendation from Road Committee, to allow Dwayne R. Woodard, Secretary-Treasurer the authority to invest the ARF allocated to Claiborne Parish in the amount of \$2,250,000 to be placed in T-Bills or CD’s, which will be in different short-term maturity increments to take advantage of the higher interest rates.

At this time, Claiborne Parish Coroner Dr. Mark Haynes, gave his monthly Coroner’s report - there were 11 deaths for the month of March in the Parish - (5) Hospice/ER, (3) CMMC, (0) other, (1) on scene, (3) that required autopsies and (0) other and (1) CEC for the month of March.

Dr. Mark Haynes gave his update from the clinics and the hospital for the month of March. COVID is sporadic with most cases being treated at home with mild symptoms. Flu season seems to be over.

\*\*\*\*\*

**ITEM #23 – March 8, 2023 – AGENDA**

**SECRETARY-TREASURER – UPDATE ON GRANTS AND OTHER ITEMS**

1. LGAP Projects –

No open grant contracts at this time.

2. CWEF Projects -

Pinehill Water System  
FY2020-2021 CWEF Grant  
Amount - \$21,225  
Project – Water line extension E D White Road area  
Status – Contract received.

3. LCDBG Grant

Norton Shop Water System  
FY2021 LCDBG  
Amount - \$455,480  
Project – New water well  
Status – Under construction (60% complete).

4. Sales Tax Collections for January 2023 – net of \$68,678 from gross collections of \$70,737  
Net sales tax collections for December 2022 – \$72,874 – decrease \$-4,196 (-5.75%)  
Net sales tax collections for January 2022 - \$57,767 – increase \$10,911 (18.89%)
5. Cash position at February 28, 2023 - \$11,176,562  
Cash position at January 31, 2023 - \$11,449,859 (decrease of \$-273,297)  
Cash position at February 28, 2022 - \$10,851,403 (increase of \$325,159)

See Deposit Balances by Institution for breakdown at February 28, 2023 –

6. Total Receipts for the month of February 2023 – \$478,927
7. Upcoming important dates and meetings –  
  
3/8-10 – PJAL Convention in Shreveport  
3/23 – CPWSD Meeting  
3/27 – Tentative committee meetings  
3/30 – CPHSD #3 Board  
4/5 – April Regular Meeting

Secretary-Treasurer Dwayne R. Woodard updated the Jury and those in attendance on the Severance Tax Revenues received over the past five years. He stated the severance tax from Oil and Gas has grown marginally (except for the covid year) but that timber has drastically decreased over the past few years and continues to decrease. Many in the parish believe that timber is the #1 agriculture revenue produced in our Parish, however, the poultry business is the largest agriculture crop for our area by far.

President Scott Davidson stated that almost 100% of the Jury’s Severance Tax goes back into the Road Program of our Parish Road System. He also stressed to everyone who is being inconvenienced due to bridge construction on several State Hwy projects and the additional traffic that is being diverted onto parish roads to bear with us on repairs on these roads.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Additional Public Comments:**

Assistant County Agent John Monzingo invited everyone to his Master Gardener Class in Webster Parish beginning on Tuesday, June 13<sup>th</sup>. Cost will be \$165 with an early bird discount of \$25.00 if fees are paid early.

County Agent Lee Faulk introduced Ms. Destiny Hightower as the new Assistant County Agent for Claiborne Parish. He stated that she will be an asset to the kids of the Claiborne Parish 4-H Program and looks forward seeing the 4H school programs grow under her leadership. Mr. Faulk also stated that he will be attending the PJAL Convention tomorrow in Shreveport as a vendor with the LSU Ag Center and invited any jurors to stop by from 7:30 am-12:30 am.

Upon motion by Tommy Sanders, duly seconded by Mark Furlow the meeting was adjourned.

---

Dwayne R. Woodard  
Secretary–Treasurer

---

Scott Davidson  
President