

MINUTES
Of the Regular Meeting, of
The Claiborne Parish Police Jury
10:00 a.m.
April 9, 2025
Police Jury Chambers
507 West Main Street
Homer, LA 71040

The Road Committee met in the Conference Room of the CPPJ at 9:00 a.m.

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 morning of the 9th of April 2025, on being called to order by Vice-President Mark Furlow, the following Jurors were present:

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

Jury President Scott Davidson and District Five Juror Paul Cook were absent.

There were sixteen (16) others in attendance which included Secretary-Treasurer Dwayne R. Woodard, Parish Road Superintendents Mr. Chad Verdin and Mr. Brant Cupp, Claiborne Parish Registrar of Voters Tracy Todd Lowrey, Claiborne Parish Assessor Katie B. Coburn, Claiborne Parish Coroner Dr. Mark Haynes, David Greene of Republic Services, Extension Agent John Monzingo, Claiborne Parish Director of Libraries Pam Suggs, Parish Historian Wesely Harris, LSU Ag Center Regional Extension Agent Lee Faulk, CPPJ OOCS Executive Director April Childress, Town of Haynesville Mayor Roderick Hampton, Town of Homer Xanthe Seals, Jack Hightower of Claiborne Unite, Jason Archie of Conexon, Ms. Ethel Williams of Gladney Farm Road, Mr. Jerry Whitton of Homer, and Dr. Steve Fowler of the Homer Cornerstone Church.

The meeting was opened with prayer led by Roderick Hampton, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Malcolm Cooper.

Vice-President Mark Furlow welcomed everyone.

Upon motion by Kevin Gray, duly seconded by Mary McDaniel, the Jury unanimously voted to adopt the agenda as presented.

Upon motion by Gil Dowies, duly seconded by Rev. Willie Young, the Jury unanimously approved the following consent agenda:

Consent

1. Approval of March 12, 2025, regular meeting minutes as published in the Official Journal.
2. Payment of the March 2025 bills as approved by the Claims Committee.
3. Request from the Town of Homer, in a letter received on March 26, 2025, requesting two (2) loads of cold mix. The materials will be paid for under the Town's ad valorem tax credit.

Regular Agenda

Vice-President Mark Furlow read aloud a notice that all Jurors and Parish Employees are required to complete one (1) hour of required ethics training by December 31, 2025.

Vice-President Mark Furlow reminded everyone that one (1) hour of Preventing Sexual Harassment Training is required to be completed by December 31, 2025, by all Parish

Employees and that Parish Department Heads and Police Jury Officers have a two (2) hour training requirement.

Reminder – Jurors’ personal financial disclosure statements for 2024 are due by May 15, 2025.

Vice-President Mark Furlow read aloud a notice that the auditor’s with Bosch & Statham CPA’s will be here the week of April 14-18 to do fieldwork and testing for the preparation of our 2024 Financial Statements & AUP Report.

Vice-President Mark Furlow read aloud a notice that the ROV Employees’ Retirement System employer rate for the fiscal year July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026, will remain at 18.00% and the employee rate will remain at 7.00%.

Vice-President Mark Furlow read aloud a notice that the 2025-2026 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 13,502. (Prior year 13,526 a decrease of 24 individuals or -0.18%)

Upon motion by Kevin Gray, duly seconded by Larry Ford, the Jury unanimously approved the request from Claiborne Parish Fire Protection District #6, in a letter received March 24, 2025, request that the Jury re-appoint the following two members Mark Atkins and Danny “Doc” Lee for an additional four (4) year term each. Their terms expire on April 30, 2025.

Upon motion by Joe Merritt, duly seconded by Kevin Gray, the Jury unanimously approved the Presentation and acceptance of the CPPJ Hwy Dept. Three Year Capital Improvement Program for the 2026-2028 period.

Parish Wide Capital Improvement Program for 2026-2028

2026-Harris Rd. widening of the roadway approximately one foot on both sides of the road in certain areas - \$90,000
Chip Seal Roads to be named later - \$400,000

2027– Columbia Rd. Soil Cement the section of the Columbia Road from the railroad tracks to the injection well for approximately 1 mile, due to heavy truck traffic - \$75,000
Chip Seal Roads to be named later - \$450,000

2028 – Flat Lick Rd spreading hot mix in various locations on Flatlick Road due to heavy truck traffic over the last few years - \$65,000
Chip Seal Program Roads to be named later - \$450,000

Note: All Projects are subject to money availability and the change of current conditions of the roads.

Upon motion by Gil Dowies, duly seconded by Rev. Willie Young, the Jury unanimously approved the request from the Road Superintendents Brant Cupp and Chad Verdi, to increase Operator II Kaden Williams’ base pay by \$0.75 per hour to \$16.80 effective April 10, 2025. Mr. Williams is currently operating several different pieces of equipment and is a valuable member of the Hwy Dept.

Upon motion by Kevin Gray, duly seconded by Larry Ford, the Jury unanimously approved the request from Road Superintendents Brant Cupp and Chad Verdin to increase Truck Driver Greg Buggs’ base pay by \$0.75 per hour to \$16.55 effective April 10, 2025. Mr. Buggs has embraced the role of leader for our new truck drivers and is a valuable member of the Hwy Dept.

At the time, Vice-President gave the Road Committee Report.

Upon motion by Gil Dowies, duly seconded by Mary McDaniel, the Jury unanimously approved the replacement of two separate windshields damaged by gravel falling from one our parish dump trucks on the morning of March 14, 2025, due to a malfunctioning tailgate. (Pricilla Pitts Malray of 755 Liberty Hill Road, Homer and Jenni Williams of 19921 Hwy 2, Lisbon)

Upon motion by Kevin Gray, duly seconded by Mary McDaniel, the Jury unanimously approved the quote to place a new roof on the Clerk of Courts Office by Brazos Construction in the amount of \$52,486.

Upon motion by Gil Dowies, duly seconded by Kevin Gray, the Jury unanimously approved certain repairs on the Assessor’s Office up to an amount of \$10,000.

Upon motion by Kevin Gray, duly seconded by Joe Merritt, the Jury unanimously approved the request from the Claiborne Parish Communications District (E-911) for \$6,000 which is their share of updated GIS mapping system for the Parish.

Upon motion by Rev. Willie Young, duly seconded by Kevin Gray, the Jury unanimously approved the request from OOCs Director April Childress to help purchase a 8-passenger handicap accessible van to better assist patients/riders in wheelchairs. The Police Jury’s contribution will be \$25,000 of the approximate \$90,000 cost.

At this time Claiborne Parish Coroner Dr. Mark Haynes gave his monthly report for the Coroner’s Office. There were Twenty (20) total deaths: (11) hospice/ER related, (0) other facilities, (2) were on scene with autopsy required, (3) on scene no autopsy required, (4) at CMMC and there were (2) CECs in the parish for the month.

Dr. Haynes gave an update on the hospital. He stated that the hospital has been busy with a significant increase in covid and flu cases. Most issues from COVID cases have been dehydration, they are not seeing many respiratory issues with it. Flu symptoms are very miserable this year. The hospital census is good. The hospital has a new clinic opening on April 16, 2025, at 11:00 am in Minde, it will be called Lagniappe Clinic.

ITEM #21 – April 9, 2025 – 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 – Bids received and accepted – Brazos Industries was awarded the bid.
Construction is completed as of 11/4/2024. Certificate of completion filed and recorded.
Preparing reimbursement for submittal to the State and working on close-out documents.

Claiborne Parish Police Jury
FY2023-2024 LGAP Grant
Amount \$62,500
Project – Purchase of John Deere Tractor w/Loader
Status – awarded on September 18, 2024 – completed contract received from the State.
The tractor is ordered and awaiting delivery.

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. (Seeking additional funding)

South Claiborne Water System

FT2022-2023 CWEF Grant

Amount - \$100,000

Project – Owens Booster Station Project (Hwy 146)

Status – Contract received and approved by the State. Project construction is completed as of 10/31/2024. Certificate of completion filed and recorded. Preparing reimbursement for submittal to the State and working on close-out documents

3. Sales Tax Collections for February 2025 – net of \$49,233 from gross collections of \$50,495
Net sales tax collections for January 2025 – \$54,262 – decrease \$-5,029 (-9.27%)
Net sales tax collections for February 2024 - \$64,339 – decrease \$-15,106 (-23.48%)

4. Cash position on March 31, 2025 - \$11,312,676
Cash position on February 28, 2025 - \$11,647,347 (decrease of \$-334,671)
Cash position on March 31, 2024 - \$11,365,654 (decrease of \$-52,978)

See Deposit Balances by Institution for breakdown on March 31, 2025 –

5. Total Receipts for the month of March 2025 – \$324,042

6. Upcoming important dates and meetings –

4/14-17 – Auditors here for fieldwork

4/15 – OOCs Board Meeting

4/18 – Good Friday Holiday

4/21 – Library Board of Control Meeting

4/24 – CPHSD #3 Board Meeting

4/30 – Items due for May Agenda

5/5 – Tentative date for Committee Meetings (if needed)

5/7 – May Meeting

5/26 – Memorial Day

Public Comments:

Mr. Lee Faulk of the LSU Ag Center announced that the 4-H Awards Banquet will be held on a Saturday, May 3rd at 5:00 pm at the Fair Barn in Haynesville. A silent auction will be held at the banquet with all proceeds benefitting the 4-H program.

Mr. Faulk also gave an update on the recent Artificial Insemination class that was held last week which had a great turnout. Mr. Faulk invited everyone to the Hill Farm's largest event of the year which is the Beef and Forage Field Day that is being held on April 24th.

Mr. John Monzingo of the LSU Ag Center announced his upcoming Lunch and Learn about Ornamental Flowers in Landscape on April 30th at noon at the CP Library.

Mayor Xanthe Seals mentioned to the Jury that the bridge on (52)) Edgewood is in the process of finally being replaced. Mayor Seals also invited everyone out to the "Love the Boot Event" on Saturday for City-Wide Clean Up in the Town of Homer.

Secretary-Treasurer Dwayne Woodard gave an update on the closed bridge on Hwy 146. He stated that President Scott Davidson, Rev. Young, Gil Dowies, Sheriff Dowies, OEP Director Dennis Butcher, along with himself attended a conference call at the invitation of State Representative Rashid "Mon" Young and numerous DOTD personnel concerning this project. During this conference call we were informed that funding had been secured for this project. DOTD is going to replace the bridge with concrete box culverts which should not take nearly as long as long as originally planned – total time frame for replacement should be less than one

year. Secretary-Treasurer Woodard thanked Representative Young for his fast action concerning this project and DOTD officials for understanding the bind that this closure puts on that area of the Parish and how it could affect the local economy due to lost lake traffic. He also thanked Parish Road Superintendents Brant Cupp and Chad Verdin for going into immediate action on determining which parish roads would see increased traffic due to this closure and taking the necessary safeguards concerning these roads. Secretary-Treasurer Woodard informed everyone that we hope to know a realistic timeframe in the next week or so as to when construction should begin.

Ms. Ethel Williams of Gladney Farm Road expressed thanks to Rev. Willie Young and the Police Jury for getting on this project and trying to help make this area a safer route for the increased traffic. Ms. Williams stated that people are going way too fast, and sometimes you have to get off the side of the road to get by.

Rev. Willie Young requested that the Jury amend the agenda to deal with lowering the speed limit to 25 mph on parish roads that are affected by the closing of the Caney Creek Relief Bridge on Hwy 146, this motion was duly seconded by Joseph Merritt, the Jury unanimously voted to amend the agenda.

Upon motion by Gil Dowies, duly seconded by Rev. Willie Young, the Jury unanimously approved the request from Rev. Willie Young and the other Jurors to reduce the speed limit from 35 mph to 25 mph on the following Parish Roads, effective April 21, 2025:

Gladney Farm Road (Parish Road No. 413) for its entirety, including Hill Farm Drive, from the intersection of LA Hwy 146 to the intersection of Hill Farm Road.

Hill Farm Road (Parish Road No. 392) for its entirety, including Hill Farm Drive, from the intersection of LA Hwy 9 to the intersection of Gladney Farm Road.

Lyons Hill Road (Parish Road No. 391) from the intersection of Hill Farm Road to the incorporated limits of the Town of Homer (Country Club Circle)

Spring Lake Road (Parish Road No. 403) for its entirety, from the intersection of LA Hwy 9 to its intersection of St. John Road

St. John Road (Parish Road No. 177) from the intersection of LA Hwy 146 for approximately 0.90 miles to the junction of Spring Lake Road.

Upon motion by Gil Dowies, duly seconded by Rev. Willie Young, the meeting was adjourned.

Dwayne R. Woodard
Secretary-Treasurer

Scott Davidson
President