

MINUTES
Of the Regular Meeting, of
The Claiborne Parish Police Jury
10:00 a.m.
July 8, 2026
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 8th of July 2026, on being called to order by Vice-President Mark Furlow, the following Jurors were present:

Larry Ford, Mark Furlow, Kevin Gray, Paul Cook, Joseph Merritt, Malcolm Cooper, and Gil Dowies.

District Four Juror Mary McDaniel, District Six Juror President Scott Davidson, and District Nine Juror Rev. Willie Young, Sr. were all absent.

There were twenty-four (24) others in attendance which included Secretary-Treasurer Dwayne R. Woodard, Parish Road Superintendents Chad Verdin and Brant Cupp, Sheriff Sam Dowies, Claiborne Parish Coroner Dr. Wm. Mark Haynes, Parish Library Historian Wesley Harris, Claiborne District Attorney Danny Newell, , DART Advocate Rosalind Penigar, CP Tourism Board Member Jack Hightower, CPPJ OOCs Executive Director April Childress, Parish Assessor Katie Coburn, Parish Digital Liaison Jerry Hillidge, CP Fire District Four Board member Ronald Day, CMMC CEO Tina Haynes, CP Fire District Five Chief Tommy Sanders, Attorney Patrick Jefferson – Candidate for Judge 2nd JDC Division A, NELA United Way representatives Louise Droddy, Latoria Thomas, Mark Ewing, and Florence Jackson, Mr. and Mrs. Lonnie Davis, Ms. Barabara Morris, and Mr. Jim Slaton.

The meeting opened with prayer led by Malcolm Cooper, 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 agenda as presented.

Upon motion by Gil Dowies, duly seconded by Joseph Merritt, the Jury unanimously approved the following consent agenda:

Consent

1. Approval of June 17, 2026, regular meeting minutes as published in the Official Journal.
2. Payment of the June 2026 bills as approved by the Claims Committee.
3. Request from the Town of Homer, in a letter dated July 1, 2026 (also via verbal request) requesting help with the replacement of a collapsed culvert on Industrial Dr., in front of Fluid Disposal Specialties, Inc. off Hwy 2. The work will be performed on a reimbursement basis.

Upon motion by Kevin Gray, duly seconded by Larry Ford, the Jury unanimously voted to amend the agenda and add the following:

1. CPPJ Hwy Department Hardship Request from Mrs. Berry Buggs of 11983 Hwy 2 Alt, Summerfield LA for help with repairs to his driveway.

Upon motion by Gil Dowies, duly seconded by Larry Ford, the Jury unanimously approved the hardship application from Ms. Betty Buggs of 11983 Hwy 2, Summerfield. All paperwork and documents verifying her physical condition and income levels have been provided to qualify her under the PJ’s Hwy Dept Hardship program.

Regular Agenda

Reminder – one (1) hour of ethics training is required to be completed by December 31, 2026, for all Jurors and Parish Employees. - <https://laethics.net/EthicsTraining/login.aspx>

Reminder – one (1) hour of Sexual Harassment Training is required to be completed by December 31, 2026, by all Parish Employees – Department Heads and Jury Officers have a two (2) hour training requirement. - https://www.lma.org/LMA/LMA/Programs/Online_Training.aspx

Reminder – one (1) hour of Cybersecurity Training is required for all employees who have access to the Police Jury’s computer network system. - https://www.lma.org/LMA/LMA/Programs/Online_Training.aspx

At this time, Attorney Patrick O’Neal Jefferson of Homer, LA addressed those in attendance about his candidacy for Judge - Division A of the Second Judicial District Court. He gave a brief history of his experience and qualifications for that office and shared his core beliefs on how he would run that office if he were to be elected.

At this time, Mrs. Louise Droddy with the United Way of Northeast Louisiana gave a brief update of the services offered by the United Way to the residents of Claiborne Parish.

Vice-President Mark Furlow read aloud a notice that the District Attorney’s Retirement System employer rate for the fiscal year July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2027, will remain at 12.25% and the employee rate will remain at 8.00%.

At this time, Vice-President Mark Furlow announced that under HB 1 of the 2026 Regular Legislative Session - State Aid to Local Government Entities, the CPPJ had been awarded a Line-Item Appropriation of \$150,000 for rehabilitation of the Claiborne Parish Courthouse.

At this time, Vice-President Mark Furlow announced that under HB 1 of the 2026 Regular Legislative Session - State Aid to Local Government Entities, the CPPJ had been awarded a Line-Item Appropriation of \$150,000 for rehabilitation of the Claiborne Parish Police Jury Administrative Building.

At this time, Resolution 2026 – 013 – A Resolution Levying Millage for the 2026 Tax Roll for the Claiborne Parish Police Jury was read aloud in its entirety.

Upon motion by Gil Dowies, duly seconded by Kevin Gray, the Jury unanimously adopted Resolution 2026 – 013 – A Resolution levying the millage for the 2026 Tax Roll for the Claiborne Parish Police Jury

RESOLUTION 2026-013

A RESOLUTION LEVYING MILLAGE FOR 2026 TAX ROLL FOR THE CLAIBORNE PARISH POLICE JURY

BE IT RESOLVED that the following millages are levied on the 2026 tax roll on all property subject to taxation by the Claiborne Parish Police Jury:

GENERAL FUND	PARISH WIDE	MILLAGE LEVIED
1. Parish Tax	Outside Municipalities	<u>3.850</u> Mills
2. Parish Tax	Inside Municipalities	<u>1.920</u> Mills
MAINTENANCE FUND	PARISH WIDE	

1. Claiborne Parish Library		<u>6.180</u> Mills
2. Building Maintenance		<u>2.770</u> Mills
PARISH ROAD FUND	PARISH WIDE	
1. Parish Road Fund		<u>7.320</u> Mills
EQUIPMENT FUND	PARISH WIDE	
1. Equipment Fund		<u>2.090</u> Mills

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the proper administrative officials of the Parish of Claiborne, State of Louisiana, be and they are hereby empowered, authorized and directed to spread said taxes, as hereinabove set forth, upon the assessment roll of said Parish for the year 2026, and to make the collection of the taxes imposed for and on behalf of the taxing authority according to law, and that the taxes herein levied shall become a permanent lien and privilege on all the property subject to taxation as herein set forth, and collection thereof shall be enforceable in the manner provided by law.

The foregoing resolution was read in full; the roll was called on the adoption thereof, upon motion of Gil Dowies, duly seconded by Kevin Gray, the resolution was adopted by the following votes:

Yeas – (7) Ford, Furlow, Gray, Cook, Merritt, Cooper, and Dowies
Nays – (0) None
Abstain – N/A
Absent – (3) McDaniel, Davidson, and Young

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and exact copy of the resolution adopted at the regular meeting held on July 8, 2026, at which meeting a quorum was present and voting.

Claiborne Parish Police Jury, Claiborne Parish, Louisiana, this 9th day of July 2026.

/s/Dwayne R. Woodard
Secretary-Treasurer

Vice-President Mark Furlow read aloud a Notice (tentative) -The Claiborne Parish Police Jury will sit as a Board of Review for the 2026 tax roll for a 15-day period beginning September 2, 2026, and ending on September 16, 2026. The hearing date for the Board of Review will be Wednesday, September 9, 2026, at 10:00 am in the Jury Chambers of the CPPJ Administration Building located at 507 W Main Street in Homer, LA 71040.

Upon motion by Larry Ford, duly seconded by Paul Cook, the Jury unanimously adopted Resolution 2026 – 014 – A Resolution Reducing the Speed Limit on the Entirety of Parish Road No. 14, the Buck Green Road from 35 mph to 30 mph. This resolution was read aloud in its entirety.

RESOLUTION 2026-014

A RESOLUTION TO REDUCING THE SPEED LIMIT ON THE ENTIRETY OF PARISH ROAD No. 14, BUCK GREEN ROAD OF CLAIBORNE PARISH

WHEREAS, the Parish of Claiborne has been requested to reduce the speed limit to 30 mph for the entirety of Parish Road No. 14, Buck Green Road due to the increased traffic of heavy trucks on the road; and

WHEREAS, the Parish plans to reduce the speed limit for the entirety of the road beginning at the intersection of La Hwy 2 until its end at the intersection of La Hwy 2 Alt, a total of approximately 3.71 miles; and

NOW, THERE FOR BE IT RESOLVED, by the Claiborne Parish Police Jury in due, legal and regular session convened, that the Parish of Claiborne does hereby reduce the speed limit from 35 mph to 30 mph for the entirety of the afore mentioned Parish Road No. 14, the Buck Green Road, effective as of August 1, 2026.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

Upon a motion by Larry Ford 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, July 8, 2026.

Yeas – (7) Ford, Furlow, Gray, Cook, Merritt, Cooper, and Dowies

Nays – (0) None

Abstain – N/A

Absent – (3) McDaniel, Davidson, and Young

/s/Dwayne R. Woodard
Secretary-Treasurer

/s/Scott Davidson
President

Upon motion by Kevin Gray, duly seconded by Larry Ford, the Jury unanimously approved, the request from Parish Road Superintends Brant Cupp and Chad Verdin for the six-moth probationary raise of \$0.50 per hour for Operator II JaVonte Kyle increasing his hourly rate of pay to \$15.50 per hour effective July 10, 2026. Mr. Kyle has completed his six-month probationary period with the Hwy Dept.

Upon motion by Kevin Gray, duly seconded by Paul Cook, the Jury unanimously approved the Special Permit for the Shelton & Ferrell Trail Ride being held on July 31st and August 1st, 2026, at 1025 White Oak Rd, Homer, LA 71040. All requirements have been met, along with the approval of the CPSO.

At this time, Vice-President Mark Furlow presented the Road Committee Item.

Upon motion by Gil Dowies, duly seconded by Paul Cook, the Jury unanimously voted to use the line-item money notification of award received to be used for the purchase of a John Deere Skid Steer with attachments in the amount of \$207,166 with the line-item grant of \$200,000 that was awarded in the fall of 2025. The skid steer will be purchased under state contract.

At this time Claiborne Parish Coroner Dr. Mark Haynes gave his monthly report for May 2026 for the Coroner's Office. There were nine (17) total deaths in May - eight (8) hospice/ER related, three (3) at other facilities, two (2) were on scene with autopsy required, four (4) on scene no autopsy required, zero (0) at CMMC and there was four (4) CECs in the parish for the month.

At this time Claiborne Parish Coroner Dr. Mark Haynes gave his monthly report for June 2026 for the Coroner's Office. There were twenty-six (26) total deaths in June - ten (10) hospice/ER related, one (1) at other facilities, three (3) were on scene with autopsy required, six (6) on scene no autopsy required, six (6) at CMMC and there was three (3) CECs in the parish for the month.

Parish Coroner Dr. Mark Haynes told the Jury that the hospital has been very busy. CMMC CEO Tina Haynes also told the Jury that things have been busy at the clinics and at CMMC.

ITEM #240 – July 8, 2026 – 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.
The tractor has been delivered. In the process of filing the reimbursement.

2. CWEF Projects -

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 May 2026 – net of \$57,489 from gross collections of \$58,963
Net sales tax collections for April 2026 – \$70,481 – decrease \$-12,992 (-18.43%)
Net sales tax collections for May 2025 - \$61,606 – decrease \$-4,117 (-6.69%)

4. Cash position on June 30, 2026 - \$11,714,199
Cash position on May 31, 2026 - \$12,072,795 (decrease of \$-358,596)
Cash position on June 30, 2025 - \$11,183,884 (increase of \$530,315)

See Deposit Balances by Institution for breakdown on June 30, 2026 –

5. Total Receipts for the month of June 2026 – \$204,322

6. Upcoming important dates and meetings –

7/29 – LRPIC Meeting - Monroe
7/29 – Agenda items due for 8/5 meeting
7/30 – CPHSD #3 Board meeting
8/5 – Regular meeting
8/5 – Construction progress meeting – Haynesville Library

Public Comments:

Secretary-Treasurer Dwayne Woodard thanked Chief Tommy Sanders and his department, along with Entergy and Mike Hollenshead of Homer Electric for their quick response to the fire alarm at the Courthouse on June 22nd when the Courthouse took a lightning strike and shorted out and damaged a lot of equipment, including the elevator. They were instrumental in ensuring the fire hazard to the courthouse and damage to other equipment was mitigated.

Secretary-Treasurer Dwayne Woodard addressed the public on the current standing of the Police Jury Sales Tax Account, along with the tax propositions coming up on November 3, 2026, ballot for trash collection in the areas of parish excluding the towns of Homer and Haynesville. He clarified who pays and how this sales tax is collected currently, along with helping the public to understand that this tax does not get collected inside the city limits at places like Brookshires and Spring Market. He stressed the importance of going to the polls this fall and voting yes for these propositions. If this does not pass, the trash service in the Parish will cease to exist and citizens will pay for their trash pickup to a private contractor just like any other utility.

Upon motion by Kevin Gray, duly seconded by Joseph Merritt, the meeting was adjourned.

Dwayne R. Woodard
Secretary–Treasurer

Scott Davidson
President