

MINUTES
Of the Regular Meeting, of
The Claiborne Parish Police Jury
10:00 a.m.
July 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 July 2025, on being called to order by President Scott Davidson, the following Jurors were present:

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

District One Juror Larry Ford was absent due to illness and District Nine Juror Gil Dowies was out of town on vacation.

There were thirty (30) others in attendance which included Secretary-Treasurer Dwayne R. Woodard, Parish Road Superintendents Mr. Chad Verdin and Mr. Brant Cupp, Claiborne Parish Coroner Dr. Wm. Mark Haynes, Parish Director of Libraries Mrs. Pam Suggs, Parish Library Historian Wesley Harris, Claiborne ROV Mrs. Tracy Starkey, District Attorney Danny Newell, CPSO Chief Deputy Brian Driscoll, Claiborne Parish NLHSD board member Debra Baggett-Woodard PNP-FNP, DART Director Rosalind Penigar, Claiborne Unite/Legends Fest Coordinator Jack Hightower, Claiborne Parish 4-H Agent Destiny Hightower, CPPJ OOCs Executive Director Mrs. April Childress, Parish Assessor Mrs. Katie Coburn, Parish Digital Liaison Jerry Hillidge, Fire District #4 Board/Ford Museum Board member Ronal Day, Retiring Parish Hwy Dept Employee Larry Crew, CMMC CEO Tina Haynes, CMMC Dr. Samuel Abshire, CMMC Medical Student Interns Jacob Wesling DO and Alex Hart DO, Parish JOP Wayne Hatfield, Claiborne Parish Fire District #5/Homer Chief Tommy Sanders, Town Council Member Blake Taylor and Gavin Hall of Pafford Ambulance, Ms. Ann Adams of Shreveport, Rev. John Robinson of Pinehill CME, and Dr. Steve Fowler of the Homer Cornerstone Church.

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

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

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

Consent

1. Approval of June 4, 2025, regular meeting minutes as published in the Official Journal.
2. Payment of the June 2025 bills as approved by the Claims Committee.

Regular Agenda

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

President Scott Davidson 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.

At this time, the Jury, along with Road Superintendents Brant Cupp and Chad Verdin recognized Parish Operator II Larry Crew for his 31 plus years of service to our Parish with the Hwy Dept. He was presented with a jacket for his retirement from the Police Jury in gratitude for his service.

Upon motion by Kevin Gray, duly seconded by Paul Cook, the Jury unanimously approved the request from the Evergreen Fire Protection District #1, in a letter dated June 3, 2025, requesting that the CPPJ re-appoint Ms. Greta Beale of 1361 Mims Road, Minden, LA for a (2) two-year term ending on December 31, 2027. Ms. Beale’s term expires on December 31, 2025.

Upon motion by Joseph Merritt, duly seconded by Kevin Gray, the Jury unanimously approved the request from Claiborne Parish Fire Protection District #3, in an email received on June 24, 2025, requesting that the CPPJ appoint Mr. Cody Vansickle of 1175 Maddox Road, Haynesville, LA for the unexpired term of Mr. Rusty Durham who passed away unexpectedly earlier this year. Mr. Vansickle’s term will expire on December 31, 2025. District Three Juror Mark Furlow recused himself from voting on this motion.

Upon motion by Willie Young, duly seconded by Kevin Gray, the Jury unanimously approved the request from Bethel Baptist Church of 8176 Hwy 79, Haynesville, LA in a letter received on June 24, 2025, for assistance in placing road signs directing individuals to the Bethel Cemetery located on Bethel Spur Road.

Upon motion by Mary McDaniel, duly seconded by Paul Cook, the Jury unanimously approved Resolution 2025-011 – A Resolution levying Millage for the 2025 Tax Roll for the Claiborne Parish Police Jury. The Resolution was read aloud in its entirety.

RESOLUTION 2025-011

A RESOLUTION LEVYING MILLAGE FOR 2025 TAX ROLL FOR THE CLAIBORNE PARISH
POLICE JURY

BE IT RESOLVED that the following millages are levied on the 2025 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 2025, 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 Mary McDaniel, duly seconded by Paul Cook, the resolution was adopted by the following votes:

- Yeas – (10) Ford, Furlow, Gray, McDaniel, Cook, Davidson, Merritt, Cooper, Dowies, and Young.
Nays – (0) None
Abstain – N/A
Absent – (0) None

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and exact copy of the resolution adopted at the regular meeting held on September 11, 2024, at which meeting a quorum was present and voting.

Claiborne Parish Police Jury, Claiborne Parish, Louisiana, this 9th day of July 2025.

/s/Dwayne R. Woodard, Secretary-Treasurer

President Scott Davidson read aloud a notice that the Claiborne Parish Police Jury will sit as a Board of Review for the 2025 tax roll for a 15-day period beginning September 2, 2025, and ending on September 16, 2025. The hearing date for the Board of Review will be Wednesday, September 10, 2025, at 10:00 am in the Jury Chambers of the CPPJ Administration Building located at 507 West Main Street in Homer, LA.

Upon motion by Mark Furlow, duly seconded by Kevin Gray, the Jury unanimously voted, upon motion by the Personnel Committee, to fill the posted in-house position of Operator II due to the retirement of Larry Crew on July 18, 2025, by hiring current parish employee Chauncy Williams to fill this position with a \$0.50 increase per hour.

Upon motion by Kevin Gray, duly seconded by Mark Furlow, the Jury unanimously approved the request from Road Superintendents Brant Cupp and Chad Verdin to give Truck Driver Wilbert Buggs a \$0.45 per hour raise to \$16.00 per hour effective July 10, 2025. This marks Mr. Buggs one-year anniversary with the Hwy Dept.

Upon motion by Joseph Merritt, duly seconded by Kevin Gray, the Jury unanimously approved the Presentation of the renewal of the Co-Op Forest Road Agreement with the USFS Kisatchie National Forest, Caney Ranger District.

Upon motion by Kevin Gray, duly seconded by Paul Cook, the Jury unanimously accepted and awarded the Request for Proposals for demolition of the old CPSO building located at 613 East Main Street, Homer, LA. The proposal was awarded to Hart Contractors of Texas, LLC of Hooks TX for \$65,150.

Upon motion by Kevin Gray, duly seconded by Paul Cook, the Jury unanimously approved, upon approval of Sheriff Sam Dowies, the Special Events Permit for the Shelton & Ferrell Trail Ride to be held 1025 White Oak, Homer, LA on Aug 1-3, 2025.

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

Upon motion by Paul Cook, duly seconded by Mary McDaniel, the Jury unanimously approved the recommendation of the Road Committee, to approve the lowest quote for the purchase of a 2025 Chevrolet 2500 from Car Giant of Homer in the amount of \$52,290 for use by the Hwy Dept.

Upon motion by Kevin Gray, duly seconded by Mark Furlow, the Jury unanimously approved the recommendation from the Road Committee to advertise for bid for the purchase of a F450 (or equivalent) crew cab 4x4 truck with flat bed for use by the Hwy Dept.

Upon motion by Kevin Gray, duly seconded by Malcolm Cooper, the Jury unanimously approved the recommendation from the Road Committee, to allocate \$5,000 to the SRAC for the purpose of placing two permanent signs in the Parish for the promotion of tourism. One will be located in Homer on Hwy 79 North adjacent to the Health Unit and the other will be located on Hwy 146 East in the parking lot of Port Au Prince.

Upon motion by Kevin Gray, duly seconded by Paul Cook, the Jury unanimously approved, upon recommendation from the Road Committee to set the election date of November 3, 2026, for the 2% sales tax for curb side garbage pickup in the areas of the parish outside of the

incorporated limits. This new tax would replace the current 1% sales tax that expires on December 31, 2026.

Upon motion by Mary McDaniel, duly second by Malcolm Cooper, the Jury unanimously approved the recommendation from the Road Committee to invest \$220,000 in Treasury Bonds with Edward Jones.

Upon motion by Mark Furlow, duly seconded by Kevin Gray, the Jury unanimously approved the recommendation from the Road Committee for the purchase of tarps from the Equipment Fund to install on our small dump trucks to prevent debris from coming off the bed of the trucks. The cost is estimated to be \$6,000.

At this time Claiborne Parish Coroner Dr. Mark Haynes gave his monthly report for the Coroner's Office. There were nine (9) total deaths in May, seven (7) hospice/ER related, zero (0) other facility, zero (0) were on scene with autopsy required, two (2) on scene no autopsy required, zero (0) at CMMC and there was one (1) CECs in the parish for the month.

Dr. Mark Haynes gave an update on the clinics with good news of no flu cases being seen; however, there are sporadic covid cases being seen.

CMMC CEO Mrs. Tina Haynes gave an update on the medical center. Mrs. Haynes told the Jury that the hospital has been busy, which is a good thing. She introduced the new resident doctors who will be doing their residency here at CMMC. Jacob Wesling and Alex Hart are the two new residents who will be here practicing rural health care at CMMC. Both young men are from the new VCOM school located on the ULM campus in Monroe.

ITEM #23 – July 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 has been delivered.

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
FY2022-2023 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 2025 – net of \$61,606 from gross collections of \$63,185
Net sales tax collections for April 2025 – \$65,582 – decrease \$-3,976 (-6.07%)
Net sales tax collections for May 2024 - \$65,488 – decrease \$-3,882 (-5.93%)

4. Cash position on June 30, 2025 - \$11,183,884
Cash position on May 31, 2025 - \$11,200,672 (decrease of \$-16,788)
Cash position on June 30, 2024 - \$11,200,369 (decrease of \$-16,485)

See Deposit Balances by Institution for breakdown on June 30, 2025 –

5. Total Receipts for the month of June 2025 – \$446,234

6. Upcoming important dates and meetings –

7/14 – New server installation
7/21 – LRPIC Safety Training @ Library
7/24 – CPHSD #3 Board meeting
7/28 – CP Library Board of Control Meeting
7/28 – Tentative date for committee meetings if needed
7/30 – Agenda items due
8/6 – Jury Meeting

Public Comments:

President Scott Davidson announced to the public that the Hwy 146 culverts will be changed out next week for a permanent repair, however, they will have to close the bridge for a few days to complete the work. He stressed that the culverts will still be rough for a few months, until they can settle and then DOTD will place an asphalt over it.

OOCS Direct April Childress gave a brief update on her office, along with updating the Jury on her work on the strategic plan, along with the SWOT Survey that she is asking the public to fill out on the programs offered by the OOCS.

Mrs. Destiny Hightower of the Claiborne Parish 4-H gave an update of their summer camps stating that there was a large increase in attendance among both volunteers and members. Claiborne Parish 4-H U kids came home with six blue ribbons and a banner, so she is super proud of her kids. Mrs. Hightower also gave a report for Mr. John Monzingo of the LSU Ag Center – the Parish Fair will be on Oct 13-17 with livestock buyers dinner on October 16th. He is beginning an new educational series called “Gather and Grow” in the afternoons to replace the” Lunch and Learn” series. More information is coming soon.

Upon motion by Mark Furlow, duly seconded by Paul Cook, the meeting was adjourned.

Dwayne R. Woodard
Secretary–Treasurer

Scott Davidson
President