

MINUTES  
Of the Regular Meeting, of  
The Claiborne Parish Police Jury  
10:00 a.m.  
February 7, 2018  
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 the 10<sup>th</sup> of January 2018. On being called to order by President, Scott Davidson, the following Jurors were present:

Mark Furlow, Kevin Gray, Joe Sturges, Paul Cook, Joseph Merritt, Jr., Tommy Sanders, Gill Dowies, and Rev. Willie Young, Sr.

District One Juror James Laird was absent.

There were 51 others in attendance which included, Secretary-Treasurer Dwayne R. Woodard, Parish Road Superintendent Tommy Durrett, Sheriff Ken Bailey, E-911 Director Mr. Walter Johnson, Executive Director of the CPPJ-OOCS Mr. Tim Cain, Claiborne Parish Director of Libraries Mrs. Pam Suggs, Mrs. Teresa Raley of the Claiborne Parish 4-H, Mr. Jerry Whitton and Mr. Sam Dowies of the Claiborne Parish Watershed District, Claiborne Parish OEP Director Mr. Dennis Butcher, Asst. OEP Director Mrs. Cindy Singleton, Athens Mayor Mrs. Ann Brown, Athens Chief of Police Mr. Keith Watkins, President of the LA Forestry Association Mr. Buck Vandersteen, along with members of his association, Mr. David Green of Republic Services, Mr. Bill and Mrs. Cathy Hightower of the Guardian Journal, Mr. David Nokes of Homer, Mr. and Mrs. Freddie Spiegner of Athens, Mr. Terry Clason of Homer, Mrs. Cindy Watkins of Athens, and Mr. and Mrs. Duffy Gandy of Athens. Others in attendance were Steve Breaux, Ray Daughtry, Brady Riche', Joshua McAllister, Joe Cooper, Skeet Hodgkins, John Keith, Kevin Smith, Jared Allement, Bryant Lewis, Brad White, Brian Still, Jody Woodard, Hank Jett, Loyce Hightower, Wesley Emerson, Jack Spurlock, Pat Abshire, Mark Crenshaw, Terry Clason, Ryan Harmon, Thomas Gingles and Chris Robinette.

The meeting was opened with a word of Prayer led Rev. Willie Young, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Paul Cook.

Upon motion by Joe Merritt, duly seconded by Joe Sturges, the Jury unanimously voted to adopt the Regular Agenda as presented.

**Consent**

10. Approval of the January 10, 2018 regular meeting minutes.
11. Payment of the January 2018 bills as approved by the Claims Committee.
12. Request from the Claiborne Parish School Board, in a letter received January 25, 2017, requesting the Hwy Dept. repair signage at the intersection of Ford Road and Raymond Smith Road. This is a dangerous intersection and there is no yield or stop signs to slow the traffic approaching from the Raymond Smith Road.

**Regular Agenda**

At this time, the Jury, along with Road Superintendent Tommy Durrett, presented Mr. Donald Farley a CPPJ personalized jacket for 17 plus years of service with the Claiborne Parish Highway Department. Donald retired on January 19, 2018.

President Scott Davidson read aloud a thank you note from retired librarian Mrs. Nancy Smock, which was received January 22, 2018, thanking the Jury for her retirement presentation.

At this time, Mr. Buck Vandersteen, President of the Louisiana Forestry Association addressed the Jury and explained why he was asked to attend this meeting of the CPPJ. Mr. Vandersteen gave quick personal bio and stated that he had been a member of the Timber Board for 34 years. He stated to the Jury that he was there on behalf of the local members of the timber industry and the landowners who had expressed concern over the amendment of the Parish's Ordinance 703 which went into effect in January. Mr. Vandersteen and the members of the timber industry that were present were informed that the body of the existing ordinance had basically remained unchanged since its original adoption in 2010 and the only thing that changed in this amendment was the two sections that dealt with the cost of the fees associated with permit itself and the cost of the amount of the fines associated with non-compliance of the ordinance and that the proposed changes were properly advertised and openly discussed in duly posted public meetings over approximately a six-month period. District Ten Juror Rev. Willie Young told the Jury that he was all about deregulation and that the oil/gas, along with the timber industry were our best resources and that we needed to be business friendly. District Eight Juror Tommy Sanders asked Mr. Vandersteen if he had ever attended Police Jury meetings like this one and Mr. Vandersteen replied with that he had and that he visits other Parish Police Juries and works with them to form a better working relationship with their local timber industry. Juror Sanders asked Mr. Vandersteen if, in those 34 years, he had ever visited Claiborne Parish, in which his reply was regrettably, no. Juror Sanders asked Mr. Vandersteen if he would be willing to attend the Claiborne Parish Police Jury Meetings at least twice a year, Mr. Vandersteen replied, with, yes, he would be glad to come and work with the local parties involved. Mr. Vandersteen informed the Jury that if there were concerns about the damage to a road caused by the timber industry users, that he would guarantee that his office will find out who is causing the issue and deal with the matter that would satisfy the Parish. Rev. Willie Young called question. He asked the Jury "Why are we doing this? The truckers pay taxes, buying supplies, why are we doing this? We don't have jobs now, why would we want to push the Timber Industry out? I want to make sure we have their best interest in Claiborne Parish."

Upon motion by Rev. Willie Young, duly seconded by Joe Merritt, the Jury by a vote of six (6) against (Furlow, Gray, Sturges, Cook, Dowies and Sand) and with two (2) being for (Young and Merritt), the motion to start the process to rescind the changes to Ordinance 703 that were enacted by vote at the January 19, 2018 meeting failed. Rev. Willie Young again voiced his concern about the revised ordinance and that he was against anything that would cost any taxpayer of Claiborne Parish additional money.

District Three Juror Kevin Gray stated the reasoning for amending this ordinance was to make each truck owner/company operating our Parish Roads System, accountable for damage that they cause. And that it was also amended and to provide a more efficient way of tracking the usage and owners to hopefully enable the Parish to track down and bill the parties who are responsible for the damage. District Two Juror Mark Furlow agreed Mr. Gray's explanation of the reasoning behind the Jury's actions in amending the ordinance, since the old provisions were not being followed by the parties involved.

Upon motion by Mark Furlow, duly seconded by Joe Sturges, the Jury voted by a vote of six (6) being for (Furlow, Gray, Sturges, Cook, Sanders and Dowies) and with two (2) being against (Young and Merritt), to work with the local oil and gas representatives, along with the timber representatives to formulate an agreement on amending Ordinance 703, specifically the sections concerning the cost of the permitting process for heavy hauler traffic in Claiborne Parish.

President Scott Davidson stated that effective as of today – February 7, 2018, that revised Ordinance 703 was still in effect until an amendment could be drafted and approved by the Jury via the proper measures. However, the Police Jury will not require payment of the permit costs as of this time, but the permits still had to be pulled and proper notification of travel/destinations/use of Parish Roads given by all of those involved parties in both the timber and oil/gas industries. He also stated that the Jury plans to have in place an amended ordinance by July 1, 2018. The first committee meeting on this issue will tentatively be scheduled for Monday February 26.

At this time, Village of Athens Chief of Police, Keith Watkins, presented the Jury with his certifications and qualifications, as Chief of Police for the Village of Athens. Chief Watkins thanked the people of Athens for being there for his support. Mr. Watkins told the Jury that he would agree to answer questions, as long as they agreed to answer his questions. Chief Watkins

addressed Rev. Willie Young about his questions concerning his certifications, along with his radar qualifications. Rev. Willie Young informed Chief Watkins that he has had numerous complaints, both white and black, rich and poor, and about the Village of Athens becoming a “speed trap”. Rev. Willie Young stated that in the January meeting there was a request to replace Village Limits sign that had been damaged and destroyed. Rev. Young’s concern and the reasoning for voting against replacing the sign, was there were a number of tickets written since the Jury agreed to expansion of the village limits. Chief Watkins informed Rev. Young he was elected to enforce the law and that had nothing to do with this request from the Village of Athens. Chief Watkins informed the Jurors that this sign in question had been in place for over 30 years and that as he understood, the only reasoning for expanding the Athens village limits was for water system purposes only and not for additional Ad Valorem tax dollars or more traffic ticket revenue. Chief Watkins presented the Jury with his qualifications, which began in 1974, along with his lengthy certifications in training, public relations, gun safety, investigation, which included his graduation with honors from the LSU Law Enforcement Institute in 1981. He explained to the Jury how his radar is certified and is daily calibrated. After much discussion in reference to Rev. Willie Young’s concerns, Chief Watkins answered the questions from the Jury in detail and Rev. Willie Young was satisfied with his answers. Rev. Willie Young told Chief Watkins that he believed in supporting your law enforcement and obeying the law. Chief Watkins thanked the Jury for inviting him to speak.

Upon motion by Paul Cook, duly seconded by Kevin Gray, the Jury unanimously accepted the legally advertised bids for the purchase of the 2018 Culverts to be used on Parish Road projects FY2018. The bids were awarded as follows:

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**FOR CULVERT BIDS FOR 2018 CLAIBORNE PARISH POLICE JURY**

**N-12 – HDPE TYPE - CORRUGATED DUAL WALL CULVERTS**

<u>DIAMETER</u>	Keeling - LA		Southwest –AR
12”	5.369		5.60
15”	7.306		7.60
18”	9.60		10.00
24”	16.043		16.80
36”	30.727		32.00
42”	43.474		46.00
48”	52.232		54.40
54”	N/A		N/A
60”	85.474		92.00

**BID TABULATION**

**FOR CULVERT BIDS FOR 2018 CLAIBORNE PARISH POLICE JURY**

**2½x1 or 3x1 or 5x1 – CORRUGATION – 10GA CORRUGATED METAL CULVERTS**

<u>DIAMETER</u>	Keeling - LA	Southwest - AR	Wilson - TX
18”	N/A	N/A	N/A
24”	N/A	N/A	N/A
30”	N/A	N/A	N/A
36”	N/A	N/A	N/A
48”	N/A	N/A	73.71
60”	N/A	N/A	92.13
72”	N/A	N/A	110.58

**BID TABULATION**

**FOR CULVERT BIDS FOR 2018 CLAIBORNE PARISH POLICE JURY**

**2½x1 or 3x1 or 5x1 – CORRUGATION – 12GA CORRUGATED METAL CULVERTS**

<u>DIAMETER</u>	Keeling - LA	Southwest - AR	Wilson - TX
12"	N/A	N/A	N/A
15"	N/A	N/A	N/A
18"	N/A	N/A	18.54
24"	N/A	N/A	23.85
30"	N/A	N/A	29.85
36"	N/A	N/A	36.33
48"	N/A	51.77	48.15
60"	N/A	63.87	71.07
72"	N/A	76.22	85.83

**BID TABULATION**

**FOR CULVERT BIDS FOR 2018 CLAIBORNE PARISH POLICE JURY**

**2½x1 or 3x1 or 5x1 – CORRUGATION – 14GA CORRUGATED METAL CULVERTS**

<u>DIAMETER</u>	Keeling - LA	Southwest – AR	Wilson - TX
12"	N/A	N/A	9.00
15"	N/A	11.72	11.25
18"	N/A	13.95	13.47
24"	N/A	18.48	17.82
30"	N/A	23.02	22.38
36"	N/A	27.54	26.79
48"	N/A	36.62	35.79
60"	N/A	46.22	52.56
72"	N/A	55.13	63.54

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Upon motion by Joe Sturges, duly seconded by Kevin Gray the Jury unanimously approved the issuance and approval of the Parish’s Assurance Letter to DOTD’s Right of Way Section, as requested in a letter received on January 15, 2018 for LADOTD.

Upon motion by Joe Sturges, duly seconded by Paul Cook, the Jury unanimously approved Resolution 2018 – 004 – CPPJ’s Approval Resolution for CPFDP No. 5’s Ad Valorem Tax Renewal Election on April 28, 2018. District Eight Juror Tommy Sanders recused himself from the vote.

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The following resolution was offered by Joe Sturges and seconded by Paul Cook:

**RESOLUTION 2018-004**

A resolution approving the holding of an election in Claiborne Parish Fire Protection District No. 5, Louisiana, on Saturday, April 28, 2018, to authorize the levy of a special tax therein.

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of Claiborne Parish Fire Protection District No. 5, Louisiana (the "Governing Authority"), acting as the governing authority of Claiborne Parish Fire Protection District No. 5, Louisiana (the "District"), adopted a resolution on January 25, 2018, calling a special election in the District on Saturday, April 28, 2018, to authorize the levy of a special tax therein; and

WHEREAS, the governing authority of the District has requested that this Police Jury, acting as the governing authority of the Parish of Claiborne, State of Louisiana, give its consent and authority for the District to hold the aforesaid election, and in the event that the election carries to continue to levy and collect the special tax provided for therein; and

WHEREAS, as required by Article VI, Section 15 of the Constitution of the State of Louisiana of 1974, it is now the desire of this Police Jury to approve the holding of said election and in the event that the election carries, to continue to levy and collect the special tax provided for therein;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Police Jury of the Parish of Claiborne, State of Louisiana, acting as the governing authority of said Parish, that:

SECTION 1. In compliance with the provisions of Article VI, Section 15 of the constitution of the State of Louisiana of 1974, and in accordance with the request of the Board of Commissioners of Claiborne Parish Fire Protection District No. 5, Louisiana, this Police Jury hereby approves the holding of an election in the District, on Saturday, April 28, 2018, at which election there will be submitted the following proposition, to-wit:

**PROPOSITION  
(TAX RENEWAL)**

Shall Claiborne Parish Fire Protection District No. 5, Louisiana (the "District"), levy a ten and thirty-seven hundredths (10.37) mills tax on all the property subject to taxation in the District (an estimated \$188,734 reasonably expected at this time to be collected from the levy of the tax for an entire year), for a period of ten (10) years, beginning with the year 2020 and ending with the year 2029, for the purpose of acquiring, constructing, improving, maintaining and/or operating fire protection facilities and equipment in and for the District, including paying the cost of obtaining water for fire protection purposes?

SECTION 2. In the event the election carries, this Police Jury does hereby further consent to and authorize the District to continue to levy and collect the special tax provided for therein.

This resolution having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

<u>MEMBERS</u>	<u>YEAS</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>	<u>ABSTAINING</u>
James Laird			X	
Mark Furlow	X			
Kevin Gray	X			
Joe A. Sturges	X			
Paul R. Cook	X			
Scott Davidson	X			
Joseph Merritt, Jr.	X			
Tommy Sanders				X
Gil Dowies	X			
Willie J. Young, Sr.	X			

And the resolution was declared adopted on this, the 7<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2018.

/s/ Dwayne R. Woodard  
Secretary-Treasurer

/s/ Scott Davidson  
President

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President Scott Davidson read aloud a Public Notice Announcement: Announcement is hereby given that at its meeting to be held on Monday, February 26, 2018, at 6:00 pm, at the Claiborne Parish Fire Protection District No. 3 Training Center, Claiborne Parish Fire Protection District No. 3, located at 1833 Sherman Street, Haynesville, Louisiana, the Board of Commissioners of Claiborne Parish Fire Protection District No. 3, Louisiana, plans to consider adopting a resolution ordering and calling an election to be held in Claiborne Parish Fire Protection District No. 3 to authorize the renewal of an ad valorem tax.

Upon motion by Gil Dowies, duly seconded by Kevin Gray, the Jury unanimously approved Resolution 2018 – 005 – CPPJ’s Approval Resolution for CPFDP No. 3’s Ad Valorem Tax Renewal Election on April 28, 2018. District Three Juror Mark Furlow recused himself from the vote.

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The following resolution was offered by Gil Dowies and seconded by Kevin Gray:

**RESOLUTION 2018-005**

A resolution approving the holding of an election in Claiborne Parish Fire Protection District No. 3, Louisiana, on Saturday, April 28, 2018, to authorize the levy of a special tax therein.

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of Claiborne Parish Fire Protection District No. 3, Louisiana (the "Governing Authority"), acting as the governing authority of Claiborne Parish Fire Protection District No. 3, Louisiana (the "District"), plans to adopt a resolution on February 26, 2018, calling a special election in the District on Saturday, April 28, 2018, to authorize the levy of a special tax therein; and

WHEREAS, the governing authority of the District has requested that this Police Jury, acting as the governing authority of the Parish of Claiborne, State of Louisiana, give its consent and authority for the District to hold the aforesaid election, and in the event that the election carries to continue to levy and collect the special tax provided for therein; and

WHEREAS, as required by Article VI, Section 15 of the Constitution of the State of Louisiana of 1974, it is now the desire of this Police Jury to approve the holding of said election and in the event that the election carries, to continue to levy and collect the special tax provided for therein;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Police Jury of the Parish of Claiborne, State of Louisiana, acting as the governing authority of said Parish, that:

SECTION 1. In compliance with the provisions of Article VI, Section 15 of the constitution of the State of Louisiana of 1974, and in accordance with the request of the Board of Commissioners of Claiborne Parish Fire Protection District No. 3, Louisiana, this Police Jury hereby approves the holding of an election in the District, on Saturday, April 28, 2018, at which election there will be submitted the following proposition, to-wit:

**PROPOSITION  
(TAX RENEWAL)**

Shall Claiborne Parish Fire Protection District No. 3, Louisiana (the "District"), levy a ten (10) mills tax on all the property subject to taxation in the District (an estimated \$194,000 reasonably expected at this time to be collected from the levy of the tax for an entire year), for a period of ten (10) years, beginning with the year 2020 and ending with the year 2029, for the purpose of acquiring, constructing, improving, maintaining and/or operating fire protection facilities and equipment in and for the District, including paying the cost of obtaining water for fire protection purposes?

SECTION 2. In the event the election carries, this Police Jury does hereby further consent to and authorize the District to continue to levy and collect the special tax provided for therein.

This resolution having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

<u>MEMBERS</u>	<u>YEAS</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>	<u>ABSTAINING</u>
James Laird			X	
Mark Furlow				X
Kevin Gray	X			
Joe A. Sturges	X			
Paul R. Cook	X			
Scott Davidson	X			
Joseph Merritt, Jr.	X			
Tommy Sanders	X			
Gil Dowies	X			
Willie J. Young, Sr.	X			

And the resolution was declared adopted on this, the 7<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2018.

/s/ Dwayne R. Woodard  
Secretary-Treasurer

/s/ Scott Davidson  
President

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Upon motion by Paul Cook, duly seconded by Joe Sturges, the Jury unanimously approved the 2017 Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire for the 2017 Audit.

There were no recommendations from the Roads Committee at this time.

Main Street Homer was not in attendance. Secretary-Treasurer Dwayne R. Woodard asked and permission was granted by the Jury to remove them from the monthly agenda until further notice.

At this time, President Scott Davidson read the monthly Coroner’s Report for Dr. Mark Haynes who was unable to attend due to prior commitments. Report for the month of January 2018 – DEATHS (4) Hospice/ER, (1) Other, No Autopsies, and (8) CEC’s. He reported that his office is seeing fewer flu cases, so hopefully, this means flu season is about over.

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**ITEM #22 – February 7, 2018 – AGENDA**

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

1. LGAP Projects –

CPPJ – Gas Line Extension on Hwy 2 to Parish Owned Property  
Contract #1415-CLB-0001 Amount - \$25,000 now \$0  
Project – extension of natural gas line to the Police Jury owned property on Hwy 2  
Status – Change of scope approved by Office of Comm. Devlp. – transferred to 0002

CPPJ – Emergency Generator for CPPJ Public Works Building on Hwy 2  
Contract #1415-CLB-0002 Amount - \$14,167 now \$39,167  
Project – standby emergency generator for the CPPJ Public Works Building on Hwy 2  
Status – Bid awarded to Arcco Power Systems of Bossier City, LA for \$27,099 - delivered

CPPJ – Pine Hill Water System  
Contract #1516-CLB-0001 Amount \$21,500  
Project – repaint exterior of elevated storage tank located on Hwy 70  
Status – contracts submitted to the State and approved

CPPJ – South Claiborne Water System  
Contract #1516-CLB-0002 Amount \$21,500  
Project – install ATS on emergency generators at well sites

Status – contracts submitted to the State and approved

2. CWEF Projects

Leatherman Creek Water System  
Contract #1415-CWEF-CLB-0001 Amount - \$25,000  
Project – Repair and rehab of ground storage tank  
Status – Construction complete, applying for reimbursement

3. Sales Tax Collections for December 2017 – net of \$59,730 from gross collections of \$61,262 on taxable sales of \$5,676,562.  
Net sales tax collections for November 2017 – \$47,798 – increase \$11,932 (24.96%)  
Net sales tax collections for December 2016 - \$55,164 – increase \$4,566 (8.28%)

4. Cash position at January 31, 2018 - \$9,078,714  
Cash position at January 31, 2017 - \$8,854,556 (increase of \$223,618)  
Cash position at December 31, 2017 - \$7,674,454 (increase of \$1,404,260)

See Deposit Balances by Institution for breakdown at January 31, 2018 –

5. Total Receipts for the month of January 2018 – \$1,959,224

6. Upcoming important dates and meetings I plan to attend –

- 2/22 – Economic Development Board Meeting
- 2/22 – CPHSD#3 Board Meeting
- 2/26 – Committee Meetings
- 3/7 – Regular Meeting

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**Public Comments:**

District Ten Juror Rev. Willie Young informed the Jury that he hopes that the Jury takes a good look at this Ordinance 703 and how it affects everyone. President Scott Davidson reassured him that the Jury would meet with the Timber and Oil and Gas Industry and try to come to a resolution on it that everyone could live with.

Upon motion by Tommy Sanders, duly seconded by Paul Cook, the meeting was adjourned.

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Dwayne R. Woodard  
Secretary–Treasurer

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Scott Davidson  
President