

MINUTES
Of the Special Called Meeting of
The Claiborne Parish Police Jury
2:15 p.m.
May 11, 2018
Conference Room
CPPJ Administration Building
507 West Main Street
Homer, LA 71040

The Claiborne Parish Police Jury met in a special called session in the Conference Room of the Claiborne Parish Police Jury Complex, located at 507 West Main Street in Homer, LA at 2:15 p.m. on Friday the 11th of May, 2018. On being called to order by President Scott Davidson, the following Jurors were present:

James Laird, Mark Furlow, Kevin Gray, Joe Sturges (late), Paul Cook, Joseph Merritt, Jr., and Gil Dowies.

Rev. Willie Young and Tommy Sanders were absent.

There were 7 others in attendance which included, Secretary-Treasurer Dwayne R. Woodard, Parish Road Superintendent Tommy Durrett, Parish Coroner, Dr. Mark Haynes, Attorney Walter May, Same Dowies of the CPWSD and Mrs. Kathy Hightower of the Guardian Journal.

The meeting was opened with a word of Prayer led by Joe Merritt followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Paul Cook.

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

Upon motion by Gil Dowies, duly seconded by Mark Furlow, the Jury unanimously voted to adopt the consent agenda.

Upon motion by Mark Furlow, duly seconded by Kevin Gray, the Jury unanimously voted to amend the Regular Agenda and add the following items:

1. Request from Road Superintendent Tommy Durrett to consider Truck Driver Terry Mitchell's injury to qualify for use Sec 385 – Donation Time Off Policy of the CPPJ's of the Employee Manual.
2. Request from DAR, in a letter dated May 10, 2018, for permission to place a wreath on the Courthouse lawn next to the war monument for Memorial Day in honor of all Claiborne Parish Veterans.
3. Request from Living Word Haynesville, in a letter dated May 8, 2018, requesting permission from the Police Jury to use the vacant lot (Parish owns) across from the Joe Webb Memorial Library in Haynesville on May 25, 2018, for an outdoor free movie night for the Haynesville community.
4. Request from Secretary-Treasurer, Dwayne Woodard to give the President of the Claiborne Parish Police Jury authority to sign the contract and any documents on behalf of the Police Jury regarding Resolution 2018 – 008.

Amended Items

President Scott Davidson moved to handle the additions to the agenda, at this time.

Upon motion by Gil Dowies, duly seconded by James Laird, the Jury unanimously approved the request from Road Superintendent, Tommy Durrett, for the Jury to consider using Sec 385- Donation of Time Off Policy of the CPPJ's Employee Manual for Truck Driver Terry Mitchell due to his injury.

Upon motion by James Laird, duly seconded by Gil Dowies, the Jury unanimously approved the request from DAR, in a letter dated May 10, 2018, for permission to place a wreath on the Courthouse lawn next to the war monument for Memorial Day in honor of all Claiborne Parish Veterans.

Upon motion by Gil Dowies, duly seconded by Mark Furlow, the Jury unanimously approved the request from Living Word of Haynesville, in a letter dated May 8, 2018, requesting permission from the Police Jury to use the vacant lot (Parish owns) across from the Joe Webb Memorial Library in Haynesville on May 25, 2018, for an outdoor free movie night for the Haynesville Community.

Upon motion by Joe Merritt, duly seconded by James Laird, the Jury unanimously voted to give the Police Jury President authorization to sign, on behalf of the Police Jury, the contract and all documents concerning Resolution 2018 – 008.

Regular Agenda

Upon motion by Mark Furlow, duly seconded by Kevin Gray, the Jury unanimously approved, upon recommendation from the Road Committee, the selection of legal representation for the Parish for the pending opioid litigation.

Upon motion by Mark Furlow, duly seconded by Gil Dowies, the Jury unanimously approved Resolution 2018 – 008 – A Resolution Engaging John Young, Michael G. Stagg, L.L.C. and Stag Liuzza, L.L.C., Smith & Fawer, L.L.C., Alvendia, Kelly, and Demarest, L.L.C., Chehardy, Sherman, Williams, Murray, Recile, Stakelum & Hayes, L.L.P., Anthony Iripino of Iripino, Avin & Hawkins, and Walter May to Represent Claiborne Parish in the Pending Opioid Litigation.

RESOLUTION 2018-008

It was moved by Mark Furlow, seconded by Gil Dowies, and carried to adopt the following to-wit:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Claiborne Parish Police Jury seeks to enforce any and all available remedies it may have and to seek any damages it may be entitled to related to the national, statewide, and/or local opioid litigation and that a real necessity exists to pursue its rights and remedies;

WHEREAS, the Claiborne Parish Police Jury acknowledges that its general counsel does not possess the resources, staff, or specific expertise to handle such litigation and that because the general counsel does not have the resources, staff, or expertise to properly and effectively handle the matter a “real necessity exists” for the employment of special counsel to represent the Parish’s interest therein;

WHEREAS, the Claiborne Parish Police Jury seeks to retain outside counsel with specific expertise to handle the Opioid Litigation on a contingency fee basis, as the Parish does not possess the resources to pay the potential attorney fees on an hourly basis, nor the potential expenses in advance;

WHEREAS, other Parish Police Juries have retained outside counsel with specific expertise to handle the opioid litigation on a contingency fee basis in a similar or identical basis;

WHEREAS, the Claiborne Parish Police Jury has sought to retain and has agreed to a proposed contingency fee contract with attorneys John Young, Michael G. Stag, L.L.C. and Stag Liuzza, L.L.C., Smith & Fawer, L.L.C., Alvendia, Kelly, and Demarest, L.L.C., Chehardy, Sherman, Williams, Murray, Recile, Stakelum & Hayes, L.L.P., Anthony Iripino of Iripino, Avin & Hawkins, and Walter May subject to the provisions of LSA-R.S. 42:263, said Contract consistent with requirements of the Louisiana Attorney General with a maximum contingency of

25% on the first ten million recovered, 20% on any recovery between ten million and twenty million, and 15% of any recovery over twenty million;

WHEREAS, the Claiborne Parish Police Jury acknowledges that LSA-R.S. 42:263 requires a specific resolution and approval of the Louisiana Attorney General before retaining such specific outside counsel;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Claiborne Parish Police Jury in a duly conveyed session on May 11, 2018, voted formally to approve the contingency fee contract and to formally request that the Louisiana Attorney General approve the hiring of such special counsel pursuant to the proposed contingency fee contract as is required by LSA-R.S. 42:263;

This resolution was declared adopted on May 11, 2018 at its meeting where a Quorum was present. The vote was as follows:

For: (8) Laird, Furlow, Gray, Sturges, Cook, Davidson, Merritt and Dowies

Against: (0) none

Absent: (2) Young and Sanders

Abstain: N/A

/s/Dwayne R. Woodard
Secretary-Treasurer

/s/Scott Davidson
President

Public Comments:

Attorney Walter May thanked the Jury for allowing this group to represent them in the fight against opioid use.

Juror Mark Furlow agreed that this needs to be done.

Upon motion by Mark Furlow, duly seconded by Kevin Gray, the meeting was adjourned.

Dwayne R. Woodard
Secretary-Treasurer

Scott Davidson
President