

MINUTES
Of the Special Called Meeting of
The Claiborne Parish Police Jury
July 24, 2014
4:00 p.m. Jury Room
CPPJ Administration Building
Homer, LA 71040

The Claiborne Parish Police Jury met in a legally convened special session in the Jury Chambers of the Police Jury Complex, located at 507 West Main Street in Homer, LA at 4:00 p.m. on the twenty-fourth day of July. On being called to order by President Scott Davidson, the following jurors were present:

D'arcy Stevens, Mark Furlow, Robert "Bob" McDaniel, Joe Sturges, Lavelle Penix, Roy Lewis, Jerry Adkins, and Rev. Willie Young, Sr.

Roy Mardis was absent.

There were 19 others in attendance which included, Secretary-Treasurer Dwayne R. Woodard, Road Superintendent Tommy Durrett, Claiborne Parish Sheriff Ken Bailey, Mrs. Cathy Greeson of OEP, Parish Attorney Danny Newell, Mrs. Teresa Raley of the Claiborne Parish 4-H, Ms. Jackie Roberts of Haynesville News, Mrs. Michelle Bates of the Guardian Journal, Dr. D.K. Haynes, Dr. Sam Abshire, Dr. Cliff Salmon, Mr. Rand Kilgore, Mrs. Ginger Smith, Mrs. Lisa Ledbetter, Mr. Jim Colvin, Mr. Derrick Frazier, Mr. Joey White and Mr. Loy Weaver.

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

Upon motion by Lavelle Penix, duly seconded by Roy Lewis, the Jury unanimously voted to adopt the regular agenda as presented.

At this time, President Scott Davidson asked for questions or comments concerning the proposed inter-governmental agreement concerning the Town of Homer and Claiborne Parish Hospital Service District No. 3. He stated the attorney for the Homer Memorial Hospital, Jim Colvin and the Parish Attorney Danny Newell were specifically at the meeting for any questions that required input from legal counsel.

The meeting then moved into a period of discussion.

Robert McDaniel told the Jury this was not the agreement he had been handed 2 weeks ago and he had just received this agreement today and it wasn't the same as the prior agreement. When the Claiborne Parish Hospital Service District No. 3 was formed, it was formed by a revised statute (law), which he feels, is not being followed with the new agreement. Also, he voiced that his main concern was with one (1) member at large being recommended by the Town of Homer Mayor and the fact that the Hospital was currently being managed by a group out of Atlanta. However, Mr. McDaniel commended Mr. Derrick Frazier for the job he is doing as administrator of the Hospital.

Current Hospital Board Attorney Jim Colvin responded in reference to the company hired to manage the hospital. He told Mr. McDaniel the revenue this hospital generates (almost \$17 million dollars annually) that the cost of the management contract is just a fraction of the operating cost and that the hospital was losing approximately significant dollars (sometimes up to \$250,000 per month) before they were brought in.

Juror Mark Furlow asked Jim Colvin if he had read the Statute and if the agreement was legal in regards to the statute. Jim Colvin stated that the Police Jury makes the appointment; the Town of Homer can only give a recommendation. In the end, if there is question of whether or not this is legal, the Attorney General will review the final agreement and decide just to have all matters covered.

President Scott Davidson asked Jim Colvin how the Jurors should address questions from the people of the Village of Athens, Town of Haynesville, Village of Lisbon, etc. who ask why their

mayor doesn't get to recommend an appointment? Jim Colvin responded with the fact the property will still be owned and maintained by the Town of Homer, gives Town of Homer the right to that (1) at large member and that in theory the five (5) commissioners from the districts and the one at large should be appointed by the Jurors should be made with the thought of representing the Parish as a whole.

Juror Lavelle Penix stated the problem would be the statute and it says the CPPJ elects all members and that if the citizens of Claiborne Parish see the Town of Homer affiliated with anything, he feels that a parish wide tax in support of the hospital would not pass.

Dr. Sam Abshire responded to Mr. Penix that the CPPJ appoints eight (8) and that the Town of Homer only recommends one (1) member at large and he feels that the Police Jury still maintains the power and controls the vast majority of the new board. As to the hiring of a management company to come in and help manage the hospital and that some may consider the cost to be high, they not only manage the hospital they also manage all departments and facets of the hospital. He said this is a classic example of you get what you pay for in most circumstances. Dr. Abshire told the Jury, if he didn't think it was beneficial to the hospital, he would have been one of the first one to vote against hiring them. Dr. Abshire also commended Mr. Derrick Frazier on the job he has done for the hospital.

President Scott Davidson asked him if the Jury wanted to enter into the agreement, get the Board populated before the contract with this company was up, would Dr. Abshire recommend still recommend contracting them to manage the hospital or go forward to hiring an administrator? Dr. Abshire told Scott Davidson he would continue the contract with Quorum. President Scott Davidson asked the other doctors (D.K. Haynes, Cliff Salmon, and David Tyler) if they concurred. They all responded with yes.

Jerry Adkins voiced his concern about item 2 "The Board and the CPPJ will call for a tax proposal to be presented to the citizens of Claiborne Parish at the time and on terms as recommended by the Board." Mr. Adkins asked if either the Hospital Board or the CPPJ could call a tax if either one didn't agree with it. Jim Colvin responded with the Hospital Board can only pass a 5 mill property tax without CPPJ approval. Jerry Adkins asked if the CPPJ had the right to refusal. Jim Colvin told him no unless it was a request over the 5 mill limitation imposed by law. Parish Attorney Danny Newell added that said the intent would be only if the tax is needed would either board propose a tax. Jerry Adkins asked Dr. Abshire what he felt would be the the fair length of time to regain its financial standing if a tax was called and did he think the hospital could ever standalone without a tax? Dr. Abshire responded he felt a minimum of 5 years and yes, he felt it could survive without a tax if it regained its financial footing and was properly managed.

President Scott Davidson said even if none of the current board members were reappointed he hoped that some of the existing board members would at least still attend a few meetings and help the newly appointed board during this time of transition.

Rev. Willie Young, Sr. stated the most important thing right now is Health Care and the vital role that this hospital plays in the Parish and how important it is to the entire Parish and to him personally.

Joe Sturges told everyone that if we don't have this hospital here, there will be a lot of people leave the Parish to look for jobs. No one wants to move to where there is no hospital. People of Claiborne Parish need this hospital.

At this point the President asked if anyone had any other statements or questions and if not it was time to act on the matter at hand.

Upon motion by Rev. Willie Young, Sr., duly seconded by Joe Sturges, the Claiborne Parish Police Jury voted to accept and enter into the Intergovernmental Agreement with the Town of Homer Concerning the Management of the Homer Memorial Hospital by vote of six (6) being for (Stevens, Furlow, Sturges, Lewis, Adkins and Young) with two (2) being against (McDaniel and Penix), with one (1) absent (Mardis).

Jurors McDaniel and Penix wanted it noted that they were not against the Hospital, they wanted a strong hospital, they just did not like the terms of the agreement as it stood now,

Dr. D.K. Haynes asked why Juror McDaniel was against this agreement. Juror McDaniel responded he was not against the hospital, but, only against Town of Homer having a recommendation of 1 member at large when the revised statute stated that both at-large appointments were to be made by the Police Jury and he felt that it was not in the best interest of the Police Jury to agree to the change.

Upon motion by Rev. Willie Young, Sr., duly seconded by Roy Lewis, the Jury unanimously approved setting a Personnel Committee Meeting to discuss procedure and timeline to populate CP Hospital Service District No. 3.

President Scott Davidson reminded everyone the August 6, 2014 Regular Police Jury Meeting will start at 10:00 a.m.

Public Comments:

None

Upon motion by Mark Furlow, duly seconded by Joe Sturges, the meeting was adjourned.

Dwayne R. Woodard
Secretary-Treasurer

Scott Davidson
President