

COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING – APRIL 20, 2026

The Claiborne County Commission met in regular session on Monday, April 20, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. at the Courthouse in Tazewell, Tennessee. Meeting was opened by Officer Doug Evans. Invocation by Commissioner Zach Mullins. Pledge led by Officer Doug Evans.

At this time, Chairman Campbell announced that a moment of silence be observed in memory of Sam Owens, former county commissioner, school board member and finance director for Claiborne County.

AGENDA ITEM #1 – CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:

Chairman Mike Campbell called the meeting to order. County Clerk Karen Hurst called the roll by district. Commissioners present/absent as follows:

PRESENT:

District 1

Zachary Bunch
Dennis Cook
Whitt Shuford

District 2

Nathan Epperson
Gary Poore

District 3

Mike Campbell
Stacey Crawford

District 4

Zach Mullins
Anthony Rowe

District 5

Mitchell Cosby

District 6

Rosemary Barnett
Carolyn Brooks
Steve Mason

District 7

Steve Brogan
Eric Jones
Sherry McCreary

District 8

David Mundy
Quintin Rogers

District 9

ABSENT:

District 2

Haley Barker

District 3

Tim Shrout

District 9

Dustin Wilson

18 commissioners present
3 commissioners absent

Also present: Jennifer Bryant, Recorder

AGENDA ITEM #2 – APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: Commissioner Epperson – to approve

SECOND: Commissioner Mullins

Commissioner Mullins requested to add introduction of two candidates for state government positions (Noah Smith and Bobby Johnson)

(This added as discussion item #2A under New Business).

Commissioner Cosby requested to add a discussion item of information from Health Dept.

(This added as discussion item #2B under New Business)

Vote on agenda as amended; Motion carried by aye vote

AGENDA ITEM #3 – APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Commissioner Mason – to approve

SECOND: Commissioner Brooks

Motion carried by aye vote

AGENDA ITEM #4 – COUNTY OFFICE REPORTS

AGENDA ITEM #5 – COUNTY MAYOR'S REPORT

AGENDA ITEM #6 – COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

AGENDA ITEM #7 – COMMITTEE REPORTS

MOTION: Commissioner Mullins – to approve

SECOND: Commissioner Epperson

Motion carried by aye vote

AGENDA ITEM #8 – NOTARY PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

MOTION: Commissioner Jones – to approve

SECOND: Commissioner Cosby

Motion carried by aye vote

APPROVED:

Mercedes L. Mosley

Brooke D. Shorter

Alexandria R. Redmon

H. Mitchell Burke

Deshauna F. Marlow

Megan Rose Zielinski

Kaitlin Nicole Bray

AGENDA ITEM #9 – NOTARY PUBLIC BONDS

(none)

OLD BUSINESS:

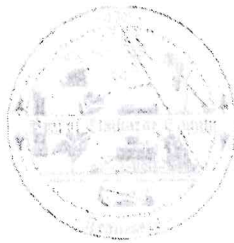
(none)

NEW BUSINESS:

ITEM #1 – INFORMATION – MEDICAL EXAMINER INVESTIGATORS 2026

Submitted for information by County Mayor.

(list as follows)



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY MAYOR

April 9, 2026

Claiborne County Commission

Re: Medical Examiner Investigators 2026

Commissioner,

There has been some discussion about the newly trained Medical Examiner Investigators (MEI's) and their role in the ME process. Newly trained MEI's will be called out on a rolling basis to the first available to assist in death investigations. Their role is to travel to the scene of a decedent to gather information surrounding the individual's death. MEI's are tasked with being an advocate for the deceased by approaching each instance from an unbiased position to gather facts, take photographs, what to look for on the scene, report writing in addition to pronouncing an individual's time of death. Current MEI's who received training by the OSCME are:

Linell Baldwin	Ashley Harmon	Darek Shetterly
Amy Jo Bussell	Larry Hopkins	Sarah Turner
Timory Callaway	Brinley Johnston	Jacob Wiegman
Megan Centers	Amanda Jones	Robert Wilmoth, MD
Shanna Dishner	Brooke Lewelling	
Whitney Estep	Tyler Marcum	

While the MEI's are permitted to assist the ME with many investigatory tasks, the ME is the only individual who can write and sign a death certificate.

If you have any more questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Brooks".

Joe Brooks
County Mayor

Joe Brooks, County Mayor

1740 Main Street • P.O. Box • Tazewell, TN 37879 • office 423-626-5236 • fax 423-626-1661
www.ClaiborneCountyTN.gov • email countymayor@claibornecountytn.gov

ITEM #2 – END OF BILL LIFE CYCLE REPORT FOR 2024

Submitted for information by County Trustee.
(report as follows)



End of Bill Life Cycle Report for 2024

Claiborne County Trustee

Denise Alexander

PO Box 72
Tazewell, TN 37879
Ph: 423-626-3275

Section I: Property Taxes (County)

	Tax Year (2024)
Beginning Property Tax Aggregate	16,395,104.00
Public Utility	483,030.00
Assessor Additions & Increases	19,296.17
Assessor Deletions & Decreases	(19,994.57)
Bankruptcy / Appeal	0.00
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Total	16,877,435.60

Section II: Property Taxes Collected (County)

	Tax Year (2024)	
Taxes Collected	(16,651,755.98)	
Taxes Collected By C&M	0.00	
Refunds & Returned Checks	10,822.51	
Reversals / No New Money	1,313.57	
Personal Property Tax - Third Party	0.00	
Personal Property Tax-turned over to C&M	0.00	
Real Estate Property Tax-turned over to C&M	0.00	
Other Unpaid-NOT turned over to C&M	(237,815.70)	* this should be \$0.00, unless Rollbacks are retained by Trustee's Office
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Total	(16,877,435.60)	
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Balance Difference	0.00	

Section III: Unpaid Taxes (County)

	Tax Year (2024)
Bankruptcy / Appeal	0.00
Total Personal Property Tax-Third Party	0.00
Total Property Tax-turned over to C&M	0.00
Other Unpaid-NOT turned over to C&M	(237,815.70)
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Total	(237,815.70)

Section IV: Final Summary (County)

	Tax Year (2024)
Total Collected	(16,639,619.90)
Total Personal Property Tax-Third Party	0.00
Total Turned Over	0.00
Other Unpaid-NOT Turned Over	(237,815.70)
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Total	(16,877,435.60)
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Percentage Filed in Court	1.409 %

I certify that this report has been examined by me and is to the best of my knowledge and belief a true and complete report of the End of Year Balances made in good faith for the 2024 fiscal year.

Denise Alexander

Denise Alexander, Claiborne County Trustee
March 16th 2026 12:33 pm

2024 Billing Date: 04-Oct-2024
Report Cutoff Date: 13-Mar-2026

FILED 3-16-26
KAREN HURST, COUNTY CLERK
BY: 1:25 pm DE

ITEM #2A – INTRODUCTIONS – STATE GOVERNMENT CANDIDATES

Noah Smith addressed the CLB announcing his candidacy for state representative (District 36) for the areas of Campbell County, Union County and parts of Claiborne County (New Tazewell and Speedwell areas).

Bobby Johnson addressed the CLB announcing his candidacy for Republican State Executive Committeeman to represent Senate District 8.

ITEM #2B – DISCUSSION – HEALTH DEPARTMENT INFORMATION

Claiborne County Health Department Director Garnet Southerland introduced Emily Barr, the new Public Health Educator for the health department. Ms. Barr informed the CLB that several programs will be available and offered to the community.

ITEM #3 – RES. 2022-028 – COUNTY CLERK OFFICE SUPPLIES (budget amendment)

MOTION: Commissioner Epperson – to approve
SECOND: Commissioner Poore

*ROLL CALL VOTE: 18 for; 0 against / Motion carried
(Resolution as follows)*

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-028
COUNTY CLERK OFFICE SUPPLIES (BUDGET AMENDMENT)

WHEREAS, the Claiborne County Clerk's office has recently had upgraded computer equipment and printers installed, and, in line with increasing costs, the price of the toner cartridges will cause a deficient in the monies available in office supplies for the remainder of the 2025-26 fiscal year, and,

WHEREAS, the clerk has monies available in an earmark title account generated by a fee reserved for the provision of services directly related to titling and registration, and so,

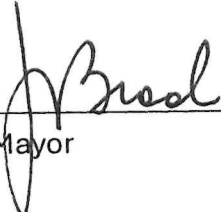
IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED by the Claiborne County Commission that, in order to compensate the appropriate funding for the expenses, the following budget amendment be approved:

	<u>Revenue</u>	<u>Expense</u>
101-46835	\$ 3,885.96	
101-52500-435		\$ 3,885.96

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Claiborne County Commission, meeting in regular session on the 20th day of April, 2026, that this resolution is approved.

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, that this resolution take effect upon its passage, the public welfare requiring it.

PASSED and APPROVED this 20th day of April, 2026.



County Mayor

Nathan Epperson

Commissioner Sponsor

ATTEST:


County Clerk

FILED 3-25-26
KAREN HURST, COUNTY CLERK
BY: 12:15 pm -B.C.

ITEM #4 – RES. 2026-029 – FJC CONTRIBUTIONS (budget amendment)

MOTION: Commissioner McCreary – to approve

SECOND: Commissioner Jones

*ROLL CALL VOTE: 18 for; 0 against / Motion carried
(Resolution as follows)*

RESOLUTION NO. 2026- 029

BUDGET AMENDMENT FOR FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER CONTRIBUTIONS

WHEREAS, the Claiborne County Family Justice Center provides vital support and services to victims of domestic violence, elder abuse, and related crises in our community; and

WHEREAS, the Family Justice Center receives generous contributions from citizens and organizations throughout the year to help sustain and enhance its important operations; and

WHEREAS, this resolution recognizes contributions received during 2026 and provides the necessary authority to appropriate these funds for expenditure;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Claiborne County Commission must approve the following budget amendment in order for these monies to be expended:

Account Number	Description	Expense	Revenue
101-53600-499	Other Supplies & Materials	\$2,650	
101-48130	Contributions		\$2,650
Total		\$2,650	\$2,650

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Claiborne County Commission, meeting in regular session on the 20th day of April 2026, that the above budget amendment is hereby approved.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall take effect immediately upon its passage, the public welfare requiring it. Duly passed and approved this 20th day of April 2026.



JOE BROOKS, COUNTY MAYOR

/s/ Sherry McCreary
SPONSOR

ATTEST:



KAREN HURST, CLERK

FILED 4-10-26
KAREN HURST, COUNTY CLERK
BY: 8:50 am B.S.

ITEM #5 – RES. 2026-030 – IMAGINATION LIBRARY CONTRIBUTION (budget amendment)

MOTION: Commissioner McCreary – to approve
SECOND: Commissioner Jones

ROLL CALL VOTE: 18 for; 0 against / Motion carried
(Resolution as follows)

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-030

BUDGET AMENDMENT FOR IMAGINATION LIBRARY CONTRIBUTION

WHEREAS, Claiborne County received a contribution for the Imagination Library from the Beta Phi Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma International Educators Foundation; and

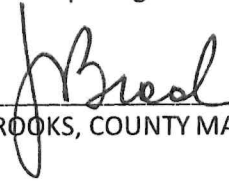
WHEREAS, this contribution needs to be made to the Imagination Library; now

THEREFORE, the Claiborne County Commission must approve the following budget amendment in order for these monies to be expended.

		<u>Expense</u>	<u>Revenue</u>
101-58400-316	Contributions	\$500	
101-48130	Contributions		\$500
	Total	\$500	\$500

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Claiborne County Commission, meeting in regular session on the 20th day of April 2026 that this resolution is approved.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution will take effect upon its passage, the public welfare requiring it. Duly passed and approved this 20th day of April 2026.



JOE BROOKS, COUNTY MAYOR

/s/ Sherry McCreary
SPONSOR

ATTEST:



KAREN HURST, COUNTY CLERK

FILED 4-10-26
KAREN HURST, COUNTY CLERK
BY: S. Soam D.G.

ITEM #6 – RES. 2026-031 – TRUSTEE COMPUTERS (budget amendment)

MOTION: Commissioner Rogers – to approve

SECOND: Commissioner Mullins

ROLL CALL VOTE: 18 for; 0 against / Motion carried
(Resolution as follows)

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-031

BUDGET AMENDMENT FOR TRUSTEE COMPUTERS

WHEREAS, the Claiborne County Trustee has determined that the seven (7) existing computers in her office no longer receive Microsoft support; and

WHEREAS, Microsoft support is a mandatory requirement of the county's Information Systems (IS) Auditor; and

WHEREAS, this is an unforeseen requirement that was not anticipated when the current fiscal year budget was adopted; and

WHEREAS, there are insufficient funds remaining in the Trustee's equipment line to cover the necessary replacement cost of \$4,900; and

WHEREAS, the Trustee has requested that \$4,900 be transferred from unassigned fund balance into her equipment line so the purchase can be completed and compliance with audit requirements maintained;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Claiborne County Commission of Claiborne County, Tennessee, meeting in regular session on the 20th day of April, 2026, that the General Fund budget (Fund 101) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, be amended as follows:

		<u>Revenue</u>	<u>Expense</u>
101-39000	Unassigned Fund balance	\$4,900	
101-52400-719	Office Equipment		\$4,900

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Claiborne County Commission, meeting in regular session on the 20th day of April 2026, that this resolution is approved.

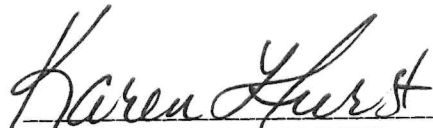
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution will take effect upon its passage, the public welfare requiring it. Duly passed and approved this 20th day of April 2026.



JOE BROOKS, COUNTY MAYOR

/s/ Quintin Rogers
SPONSOR

ATTEST:



KAREN HURST, COUNTY CLERK

FILED 4-10-26
KAREN HURST, COUNTY CLERK
BY: S. 50 am D.C.

ITEM #7 – RES. 2026-032 – GENERAL FUND (budget amendment)

MOTION: Commissioner Mundy – to approve

SECOND: Commissioner Rogers

*ROLL CALL VOTE: 18 for; 0 against / Motion carried
(Resolution as follows)*

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-032

A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE BUDGET OF CLAIBORNE COUNTY, TENNESSEE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2026

WHEREAS, the Finance Director position (Accounting & Budgeting, line 52100) was vacant for approximately three months prior to the current Director being hired; and

WHEREAS, the Finance Director is currently the only salaried employee charged to salary line **52100-105**; and

WHEREAS, the County received an audit finding related to employees exceeding the maximum allowable compensatory time (100 hours); and

WHEREAS, transferring **\$17,500** from the Finance Director's salary line (52100-105) into the Accountants/Bookkeepers line (**52100-119**) will provide sufficient budget authority to pay out the compensatory time overages and resolve the audit finding; and

WHEREAS, this transfer is an internal realignment within the same department and does not increase the overall departmental or General Fund budget;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Claiborne County Commission of Claiborne County, Tennessee, meeting in regular session on the 20th day of April, 2026, that the General Fund budget (Fund 101) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, be amended as follows:

		<u>Decrease</u>	<u>Increase</u>
101-52100-105	Supervisor/Director	\$17,500	
101-52100-119	Accountants/Bookkeepers		\$17,500

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Claiborne County Commission, meeting in regular session on the 20th day of April 2026, that this resolution is approved.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution will take effect upon its passage, the public welfare requiring it. Duly passed and approved this 20th day of April 2026.



JOE BROOKS, COUNTY MAYOR

/s/ David Mundy (BW)
SPONSOR

ATTEST:


KAREN HURST, COUNTY CLERK

FILED 4-10-26
KAREN HURST, COUNTY CLERK
BY: 8:50 am B.G.

ITEM #8 – RES. 2026-033 – AUTHORIZING APPLICATION TO THE TENNESSEE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AGENCY FOR EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT FUNDING AND COMMITTING MATCHING FUNDS

MOTION: Commissioner Cosby – to approve (with amendment following)

SECOND: Commissioner Epperson

(upon further discussion, Commissioner Cosby added an amendment to his motion that the matching funds amount shall not exceed Sixty Thousand (\$60,000.00).

ROLL CALL VOTE: 16 for; 2 against / Motion carried

FOR: Commissioners Cosby, Barnett, Brooks, Mason, Brogan, McCreary, Mundy, Rogers, Bunch, Cook, Shuford, Epperson, Campbell, Crawford, Mullins, Rowe

*AGAINST: Commissioners Jones, Poore
(Resolution as follows)*

RESOLUTION NO. 2026 – 033
A RESOLUTION OF THE CLAIBORNE COUNTY, TENNESSEE GOVERNMENT
AUTHORIZING APPLICATION TO THE TENNESSEE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT
AGENCY FOR EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT (ESG) FUNDING AND
COMMITTING MATCHING FUNDS

Sponsor: Mithcell Cosby

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Housing Development Agency (THDA) administers Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funding to assist local governments and nonprofit organizations in providing services to individuals and families experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness; and

WHEREAS, Claiborne County recognizes the need to support programs that prevent homelessness, provide emergency shelter, and assist in rapid rehousing efforts within the community; and

WHEREAS, Claiborne County desires to apply for ESG funding through THDA to support eligible activities that address homelessness and housing instability; and

WHEREAS, ESG program requirements mandate that recipients provide matching funds equal to or greater than the amount of ESG funds awarded; and

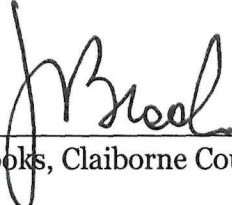
WHEREAS, Claiborne County is willing to commit local funds as required to support the successful implementation of ESG-funded activities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Claiborne County Commission, meeting in regular session, that:

1. **Authorization to Apply**
The County Mayor is hereby authorized to prepare and submit an application to the Tennessee Housing Development Agency for Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funding on behalf of Claiborne County.
2. **Matching Funds Commitment**
Contingent upon approval of the ESG application and award of funds, Claiborne County hereby commits to providing matching funds in an amount not to exceed Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$60,000), in accordance with ESG program requirements. These matching funds may include cash contributions, in-kind services, or other eligible sources as permitted by THDA guidelines.
3. **Administration of Funds**
The County Mayor is authorized to execute all necessary documents, agreements, and assurances required by THDA and to administer the grant in compliance with all applicable federal, state, and local regulations.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED this resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption, the public welfare requiring it.

PASSED and APPROVED this 20th day of April 2026.



Joe Brooks, Claiborne County Mayor

ATTEST:


Karen Hurst, County Clerk

Submitted by: County Mayor

ITEM #9 – RES. 2026-034 – OPIOID ABATEMENT FUND LOCAL GRANT FUNDING FY27

MOTION: Commissioner Rowe – to approve

SECOND: Commissioner Cosby

(discussion)

ROLL CALL VOTE: 18 for; 0 against / Motion carried

(Resolution as follows)

RESOLUTION NO. 2026- 034
RESOLUTION FOR OPIOID ABATEMENT FUND LOCAL GRANT FUNDING FY27

Sponsor: Anthony Rowe

WHEREAS, an Opioid Board was formed by the Claiborne County Commission on the 18th day of March 2019; and,

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Opioid Board is to administer, oversee and recommend distribution, payment and administration of any funds to be received from the opioid litigation funds; and,

WHEREAS, in addition to the oversight of litigation settlement funds, the board shall identify, develop a plan of action and implement strategies to curb and attempt to overcome opioid abuse in Claiborne County, Tennessee; and,

WHEREAS, the Opioid Board received 5 local funding grant applications on or before the posted deadline of February 28th, reviewed and scored the grant applications; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Claiborne County Commission, based on the recommendation from the Opioid Board, authorizes the following grant applications to be funding in FY27 beginning on July 1, 2026, ending on June 30, 2027:

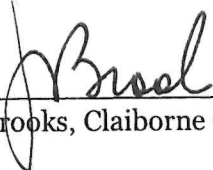
Stand in the Gap Coalition
Boys and Girls Club of Claiborne County
Live Free Claiborne

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, the following line items are to be added to the FY27 budget for tracking and auditing purposes.

	<u>Expense</u>	<u>Revenue</u>
101-46845		\$150,000
101-58500-722-SIG	\$50,000	
101-58500-722-BGC	\$50,000	
101-58500-722-LFC	\$50,000	

BE IT RESOLVED, this resolution shall take effect upon its passage, the public welfare requiring it.

PASS AND APPROVED this 20th day of April 2026.



Joe Brooks, Claiborne County Mayor

ATTEST:



Karen Hurst, County Clerk

Submitted by Joe Brooks, County Mayor

FILED 4-10-26
KAREN HURST, COUNTY CLERK
BY: 9:00 am B.G.

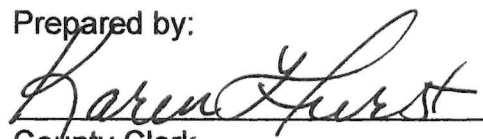
ITEM #10 – ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Commissioner Mullins– to adjourn

SECOND: Commissioner Cosby

Motion carried by aye vote / Meeting adjourned.

Prepared by:



County Clerk