

The Regular Meeting of the Library Board of Control was called to order on Monday, January 27, 2025 at 5:02 pm with the following:

PRESENT: Bennie Smith, President
Courtney Hubbell, Vice-President
Teddy Collins, Jr
Francine Middleton
Archie Chaisson, Library Liaison

ABSENT: Ruby LeBlanc
Lauren Bordelon
Tonya Hearn

Also present in the meeting room: Mrs. Laura Sanders; Library Director, Mrs. Sherry Lucas, Finance/HR/Operations Manager, Mrs. Shannon Porche; Assistant Director, and Mrs. Dana Clement; Administrative Assistant.

Ms. Smith stated after roll call, "We have a quorum and can move forward with our meeting."

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited together.

A motion to accept the LBC agenda was made by Mrs. Hubbell, seconded by Mrs. Middleton, and carried unanimously.

A motion to accept the minutes of the October 28, 2024 Regular Meeting was made by Mrs. Middleton, seconded by Mrs. Hubbell, and carried unanimously.

Public Wishing to Address the Board: N/A

Finance Report: Mrs. Lucas reported that we ended 2024 with an approximate fund balance of \$2.8 million, and the current fund balance is \$5.8 million. This includes \$3.3 million in accounts receivables for the 2024 ad valorem taxes not remitted to the Library yet. "The December financial report contains preliminary numbers, as the Parish continues to allocate some revenues and expenses back to 2024. By our next meeting, we should have finalized end of year reporting for you." Mrs. Sanders reminded everyone that "the 2024 ad valorem collections that we receive in 2025 will be allocated back to the 2024 budget by the Parish. This will make our end of year balance different and higher than the end of year balance that is report by Parish Finance. This is governmental accounting and is often misunderstood." With no further information to report, a motion was made by Mrs. Hubbell, seconded by Mrs. Middleton, to accept the Finance Report. The motion carried unanimously.

Director Report: Mrs. Sanders reported managing the daily operations of the Library system. Mrs. Sanders commented, "Our libraries fared well after the winter storm that shut down all of Louisiana last week. We had a few small issues that our maintenance will address." Mrs. Sanders gave an update: "The Thibodaux roof has started leaking again. Laperouse Metal Works is looking in the issue. At the South Lafourche re-build project, Thompson Construction told us mold remediation is complete, the building is clear, and slab cutting would commence as of January 9." A Golden Meadow blueprint layout was handed out to the Board for review. Mrs. Sanders stated, "We will have over 5,740 square feet of library space, excluding storage areas. The architects are still finalizing the plan, so we don't have a bid timeline yet. These are both Parish-managed projects, and we are very appreciative." This concluded the Director's report. A motion was made by Mrs. Hubbell, seconded Mrs. Middleton, to accept the Director Report. The motion carried unanimously.

New Business:

1. Discussion and recommendation on the Gheens Branch; Mrs. Sanders reported, "We asked Foret Contracting to inspect our Gheens building after we noticed sponginess of the floor in the old modular building. Foret reported back several issues. They found rot on the subfloor and floor joists throughout the building, along with some drainage issues. The situation is not a safety hazard at this time, but it's best that we address these issues this year. Foret believes the cost of repairs is very similar to the cost of a new modular building." After much discussion, a recommendation was given by Mrs. Middleton, and seconded by Mrs. Hubbell, for the Library Director to contact the Gheens Recreation District to see if they will allow us to make more permanent improvements, such as a concrete pad, on the land the Library leases from them. This would open up several options to us for permanently fixing this issue. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Discussion and approval of replacing fleet vehicles; Mrs. Sanders reported, “We’ve talked about getting as many miles as we can out of our aging fleet, but recently one of our oldest vehicles has left employees stranded twice on the side of the road. It is also getting harder to find parts for those older vehicles. I would like, as Parish President Chiasson has recommended, for us to obtain new vehicles through a municipal lease to purchase program the Parish has already established with Golden Motors. We already have sufficient funds in the Capital Expenditures portion of our budget to accommodate this.” Mrs. Sanders reviewed with the Board the current LPPL fleet inventory and lease proposals on various vehicle models. After a brief discussion of the options, a motion was made by Mr. Collins, seconded by Mrs. Hubbell, to surplus through the Parish the Library’s three oldest vehicles (two 2009 Dodge Caravans & one 2010 Ford Transit Connect) and replace those with the lease purchase of a 2025 Chevrolet Traverse, Tahoe, and Silverado Double Cab Work Truck from Golden Motors. A roll call vote was taken; Ms. Smith yes, Mrs. Hubbell yes, Mrs. Bordelon absent, Mrs. Hearn absent, Mrs. LeBlanc absent, Mrs. Middleton yes, and Mr. Collin yes. The motion carried 4-0-3.

With no further business to discuss, a motion for adjournment was made by Mrs. Hubbell, seconded by Mrs. Middleton, and was carried unanimously. The Library Board of Control adjourned at 5:50pm.