

The Regular Meeting of the Library Board of Control was called to order on Monday, April 26, 2010 at 5:00 pm with the following:

PRESENT: James Cantrelle
Harvey Clement
Lynette Fossum
Eva Shanklin
Shane Hebert
Rodney Doucet

ABSENT: Judy Babin
Nicholas Cheramie

Also present were Ms. Susanna LeBouef, Director, Ms. Stacey Guidry, Finance Manager, Mr. Joel Doty, Finance Director for Lafourche Parish and Mrs. Charlotte Randolph, Parish President for Lafourche.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said in unison by the Board after accepting the American Flag that was presented by members of the Woodmen of the World organization.

A motion to accept the agenda was made by Ms. Shanklin, seconded by Mr. Clement and carried unanimously.

A motion to accept the minutes of the February 22, 2010, Regular Meeting was made by Mr. Clement, seconded by Ms. Shanklin and carried unanimously.

Public wishing to address the Board: None

Finance Report:

Ms. Guidry addressed the Board, stating that the usual reports supplied from Munis were not available due to the fact that Munis was not accessible; included in the packets is the detailed financial report of revenue and expenses and trial balance instead of the usual summary of the same. Ms. LeBouef asked Mr. Doty a question regarding the \$100,000.00 deposit for the Daily Comet building. She stated that the deposit was not deducted from the original purchase price of the building. Mr. Doty replied that this was the first he had heard of it and would get back with her with the answer.

A motion was made by Ms. Fossum, seconded by Ms. Shanklin to accept the Finance Report. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. LeBouef presented her Director's Report as follows:

- Library Statistics: Statistics for the month of March were submitted
- Parish Council: All paper work for employees and timesheets presented in a timely manner
- Headquarters: attended PLA conference in Portland, Oregon on March 23-March 28; attended LAMP Board Meeting in Baton Rouge on March 29; primetime in Lockport going well; sent staff to Summer Reading Program Workshop in Baton Rouge on March 19; sent staff to Motivation Conference in New Orleans on April 12; held Administrative Meeting in Lockport on April 5; staff Development Storytime workshop in South Lafourche on April 6; attended Parish Council meeting to present 2009 Annual Report on April 13; Lafourche Parish Public Library now has it's own Facebook page
- Technology: upgraded Golden Meadow's computers

- Press Releases: Enclosed are articles sent to the newspapers informing the public on what is new with, and programs being presented through, the Library
- Programs/Displays: All Branches-National Library Week-April 12-17; Larose-hosted a Culture Café with refreshments and open mike readings of poetry; Bayou Blue-offered Free Tax Services; Thibodaux-hosted a beginners' sign language class; Lockport-storyteller Michelle Gautreaux entertained the audience.

Buildings: Lockport-leaking roof repaired-waiting for rain test; moving forward with installation of the automatic doors and railing; punch list almost completed. Thibodaux- received keys for building; shrubs being pruned by parish; fencing to be repaired. Ms. LeBouef advised the Board that Ms. Randolph had requested a meeting with her. During that meeting, it was discussed that minor improvements could be started on the Daily Comet building. Also at that meeting, Ms. Randolph recommended reducing the library's millage by 2 mils in order to finance the building of a new jail. Mr. Hebert questioned Ms. Randolph by asking, "Why would you want the millage that has been coming to the library?" Ms. Randolph responded by saying that she would like to characterize the meeting a little differently and was disappointed that the suggestion of reducing the library's 2 mils was made public. Ms. LeBouef stated that she had extensively researched that matter and had concluded that the reduction of 2 mils would essentially put the library out of business; this would not be a one-time cut, it's for ten years. She continued by stating that the library does have a reserve of funds, but she is reluctant to designate those funds for operating expenses without knowing what the actual costs of remodeling the Daily Comet building would be.

After a lengthy discussion, the board made a motion by Ms. Fossum, seconded by Mr. Hebert to accept the Director's Report. The motion carried unanimously.

New Business:

Item #1 Discussion and approval of the 2009 Audit:

No action was taken due to Bourgeois-Bennett absence to give the 2009 Audit report.

Item #2 Discussion and approval of 2010 millage rates:

Ms. LeBouef explained the letter that was received from the State Assessor's office, Michael Martin concerning our millage. A motion was made by Mr. Clement, seconded by Ms. Fossum requesting that the current millage rates remain the same for the library's system's 2010 millages: (1.65, 4.06, and .97) to Lafourche Parish Assessor Office. The motion carried unanimously.

Clerical Notation: error in reporting of millage numbers-should be 1.56, 3.84 and .97)

Item #3 Discussion and approval to amend Ordinance declaring Highway 308 property surplus for sale;

Ms. LeBouef informed the Board of the proposed ordinance proclaiming the Hwy. 308 property as surplus in order to sell it, which is on the agenda for the next Parish Council meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Clement, seconded by Ms. Shanklin to amend the proposed ordinance to state that the funds received from the sale of the property be returned to the library.

Item #4 Discussion and approval of proceeding with the remodeling of Comet Building:

After much discussion among the board members on the Comet Building, which will be the new Thibodaux Library, a motion was made by Ms. Shanklin, seconded by Ms. Fossum to proceed with the remodeling of the new Thibodaux Library (Comet Building) ASAP. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Fossum commented that with the economy as it now is, the public is using our libraries more frequently and is using them as a reward system or a fun thing to do. She stated that her family used the Lockport Library as vacation time where they read books, put puzzles together and participated in planned programs. The programs, which the library conducts, educate our public and children. With education, a good solid foundation of learning is formed and maybe by providing these programs, citizens who may become criminals would not need to frequent our jail system. My message is to educate, don't cut our programs; don't cut our libraries. The library rolled back the millage in 2007 when it wasn't mandated to do so.

Ms. Randolph commented that because the library currently has a reserve this gives her a concern.

After a lengthy discussion, Ms. Randolph suggested forming a committee to discuss the possibility of cutting 2 mils from the library. Mr. Cantrelle agreed to have the Library Board of Control's Finance Committee meet with Ms. Randolph.

With no further business to discuss, a motion for adjournment was made by Ms. Fossum, seconded by Mr. Hebert and carried unanimously. The Library Board of Control was adjourned at approximately 7:40 p.m.