

The Regular Meeting of the Library Board of Control was called to order on Monday, October 23, 2023 at 5:00 pm with the following:

PRESENT: Bennie Smith, President
Courtney Hubbell, Vice-President
Lauren Bordelon
Tonya Hearn-entered 5:09pm
Francine Middleton
Carolyn Soley
Archie Chaisson, Library Liaison

ABSENT: Ruby LeBlanc

Also present in the meeting room: Mrs. Laura Sanders; Library Director, 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. Middleton, seconded by Mrs. Hubbell, and carried unanimously.

A motion to accept the minutes of the August 28, 2023 Regular Meeting was made by Mrs. Soley, seconded by Mrs. Hubbell, and carried unanimously.

Public Wishing to Address the Board: Robert Theriot, Raceland, LA wanted to introduce himself after just running his campaign for Lafourche Parish Assessor; which was unsuccessful. He was honored to meet so many people during his campaign and will continue to get his message out.

Finance Report: Mrs. Sanders gave the Finance Report in Mrs. Lucas' absence. Mrs. Sanders reported that LPPL has a fund balance of \$3.7million, this will finish paying our budget for this year and will hold us over until next year when we start seeing new ad valorem receipts. As we haven't seen much insurance money to date, Mrs. Sanders noted that we will need to be careful with spending as what little is left in reserves will be needed to purchase materials for the new branches being built. We have no new FEMA or insurance receipts to report. The South Lafourche roof project is in progress. Thibodaux Branch's Fire Pump Replacement - we have not incurred any invoices yet on the planning portion of this project, but expect that to happen soon as the item is up for approval tonight by this Board and tomorrow by the Council. A motion was made by Mrs. Middleton, seconded by Mrs. Soley, to accept the Finance Report. The motion carried unanimously.

Director Report: Mrs. Sanders reported managing the daily operations of the library system. Our Bayou Blue branch roof repair from Hurricane Ida damage is scheduled to begin next week. The roof was made water tight right after the storm but the permanent fix had been delayed. Mrs. Sanders also updated the board, "I recently spoke with Mr. Andy Positerry about drawing up what a possible future Golden Meadow branch could look like on our existing slab". She will keep the board updated as these progresses. Mrs. Sanders stated, "with the Fall Season, comes Fall festivals and our team is out there representing the library in our communities at many of the area festivals". Included in your packet was a spreadsheet on LPPL fleet vehicles as was requested at the last meeting. This shows our fleet inventory, repairs, routine maintenance and mileages on all vehicles. Our oldest vehicles may need replaced in the future. A new spreadsheet is also included that shows the monies owed and received from insurance for both the Golden Meadow and South Lafourche sites. As was stated in the Finance Report, there have been no additional monies collected. A motion was made by Mrs. Hubbell, seconded Mrs. Soley, to accept the Director Report. The motion carried unanimously.

Special Order of Business:

1. Election of Officers for 2024: Mrs. Sanders opened the election for 2024 Officers for the Library Board of Control by asking for nominations for President. Courtney Hubbell nominated Bennie Smith for President. Mrs. Sanders asked Ms. Bennie if she accepted, and she agreed. Mrs. Sanders asked three times if there were any more nominees for President, and there were none. Mrs. Sanders announced Bennie Smith as the President for 2024. Again, in a repeated effect, Mrs. Sanders opened the floor for nominations for Vice-President. Bennie Smith nominated Courtney Hubbell for Vice President, and she accepted. Mrs. Sanders asked three times if there were any more nominees for Vice-President, and there were none. Mrs. Sanders announced Courtney Hubbell as the Vice-President for 2024. Mrs. Sanders, "Congratulations to Bennie Smith and Courtney Hubbell as our newly elected officers for the next calendar year. Thank you for your time and support of our Library System."

New Business:

1. Discussion and approval of the 2024 LPPL Employee calendar; Mrs. Sanders explained we followed the previous year's calendar and followed the *LPPL Holiday Policy 5.02* with November 5, 2024 being added for the Presidential election. With no discussion, a motion was made by Mrs. Middleton, seconded by Mrs. Hearn, to accept the 2024 LPPL Employee calendar. The motion carried unanimously.
2. Discussion and approval of the 2024 Library Board Calendar; Mrs. Sanders explained, again, we followed the previous LBC calendar, with all board meetings being held quarterly, as stated in our Bylaws, at the Lockport Branch at 5:00 pm. Mrs. Sanders, also reminded members a Special Meeting could be called between our regularly scheduled board meetings if needed for items that cannot wait for the next regular meeting. A motion was made by Mrs. Bordelon, seconded by Mrs. Soley, to accept the 2024 LBC calendar year. The motion carried unanimously. Mrs. Sanders stated that she would send this to Mr. Chiasson's secretary for his calendar.
3. Discussion and approval of LPPL revised policies. Mrs. Sanders, explained we have three (3) policies that needed amending and Board approval per the new Act # 436 which is now written in LA. R.S. 25:225 by January 1, 2024. The first is the Library Card Policy. Our library system has created three (3) card levels that satisfy the restrictions required by the new law. This policy gives the parent full control of what materials can and cannot be checked out by their minors including the ability to access digital collections or not. A motion to accept the Library Card Policy with the 3 levels was made by Mrs. Bordelon, seconded by Mrs. Hubbell. The motion carried unanimously. Next, the Collection Development Policy was changed to include the wording required by the new law that community standards will be applied when materials are purchased. A motion was made by Mrs. Soley to accept the Collection Development Policy as written, seconded by Mrs. Middleton. The motion carried unanimously. The final policy to approve this evening is the Reconsideration Policy. Ms. Sanders explained the new procedure as outlined in the new law. The Policy was created following the State Library's template while following the new law's directives. After some discussion, a motion was made by Mrs. Bordelon to accept the Reconsideration Policy as written, seconded by Mrs. Hearn. The motion carried unanimously.
4. Discussion and approval of accepting the low bid for the Thibodaux Fire Pump and recommend to the council for approval. Mrs. Sanders stated, this is for the replacement of the fire pump at the Thibodaux Branch that we have been working on for several months. Mrs. Sanders explained that we have only been allowed to stay open without a working pump thanks to the generosity of the Fire Marshall. Without fixing this pump, the library would have no choice but to shut down. The library has to have this pump to continue opening to the public. A motion was made by Mrs. Hubbell, seconded by Mrs. Middleton, to approve the bid from Jefferson Sprinkler, Inc in the amount of \$85,995.00 for Thibodaux Fire Pump replacement and recommend to the council for approval. A roll call vote was taken; Ms. Smith yes, Mrs. Hubbell yes, Mrs. Bordelon yes, Mrs. Hearn yes, Mrs. LeBlanc absent, Mrs. Middleton yes, and Mrs. Soley yes. The motion carried 6-0-1.
5. Discussion and approval of LPPL's cost share for the 2024 Employee Health Insurance Coverage; Mrs. Sanders explained, "Blue Cross health premiums has risen 16.7% for 2024. To keep the costs low some changes were made to the existing BCBS policy such as: going from an 80/20 plan to a 70/30 plan, higher deductibles, higher out of pocket maximum, higher copays and higher prescription costs. Currently, the library pays 96.7% of individual coverage and 89% of dependent coverage. Mrs. Sanders recommended continuing the same cost share for 2024." Mrs. Sanders, also stated Dental cost and plans for our employees has stayed the same; only health had an increase. After much discussion, a motion was made by Mrs. Bordelon, seconded by Mrs. Soley, to continue the current LPPL cost share for 2024 Employees Dental and Health Insurance Coverage. A roll call vote was taken; Ms. Smith yes, Mrs. Hubbell yes, Mrs. Bordelon yes, Mrs. Hearn yes, Mrs. LeBlanc absent, Mrs. Middleton yes, and Mrs. Soley yes. The motion carried 6-0-1.
6. Discussion and approval of participating in the Parish's Employee Assistance Program; Mrs. Sanders explained EAP from Hidalgo Health Associates is a confidential counseling program that is offered at no cost to all LPPL employees and their dependents to provide almost immediate access to mental health and other counseling services. The Library has participated in this parish-offered benefit for several years now, at a cost of \$3.25 per employee per month. Mrs. Sanders ask that we continue to have this benefit for our employees. A motion was made by Mrs. Hubbell, seconded by Mrs. Soley, to continue participation in the EAP program. A roll call vote was taken; Ms. Smith yes, Mrs. Hubbell yes, Mrs. Bordelon yes, Mrs. Hearn yes, Mrs. LeBlanc absent, Mrs. Middleton yes, and Mrs. Soley yes. The motion carried 6-0-1.

With no further business to discuss, a motion for adjournment was made by Mrs. Smith, seconded by Mrs. Soley, and was carried unanimously. The Library Board of Control adjourned at 6:00pm.