

The Regular Meeting of the Library Board of Control was called to order on Monday, January 22, 2024 at 5:00pm with following:

PRESENT: Bennie Smith
Courtney Hubbell
Lauren Bordelon
Tonya Hearn
Ruby LeBlanc
Fran Middleton

ABSENT: Carolyn Soley
Archie Chaisson, Library Liaison

Also present: Mrs. Laura Sanders, Library Director; Mrs. Sherry Lucas, Finance/HR/Operations Manager 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. LeBlanc, and carried unanimously.

A motion to accept the minutes of the October 23, 2023 Regular Meeting was made by Mrs. LeBlanc, seconded by Mrs. Hubbell, and carried unanimously.

Finance Report: Mrs. Lucas reported that LPPL has a fund balance today of \$2.9million and ended 2023 with approximately \$3.2million. Mrs. Lucas stated, "Nothing new to report on FEMA & insurance as we're still awaiting resolution of the Parish's disputes with those entities." Mrs. Lucas also updated the Board on the library's building projects. "South Lafourche is still in the re-roofing stage. We are still waiting on a rendering from the architect for Golden Meadow. There was a delay in determining the new building height requirement for that site. Both projects should be paid out of the Parish's pooled insurance and FEMA proceeds once received." Mrs. Lucas continued, "At Thibodaux Branch we went a short period with no roof leaks, but now we have at least one active leak. The appropriate vendors have been notified." A motion was made by Mrs. Bordelon, 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 stated, "I'm pleased to report, our Thibodaux Library Fire Pump has been ordered, but we're under fire watch as requested by the Fire Marshall. Which means every 30 minutes an LPPL staff member has to walk around the library and document that we have no fires in order for us to stay open to the public." Mrs. Sanders commented, "We're seeing a problem with Summer Reading t-shirts that have almost doubled in price since COVID. We had nearly half of the shirts left over from last summer and are continuing to sell them currently. Therefore, we have decided to wait until the prices are more reasonable and will not do Summer Reading t-shirts this year. It's disappointing, because we love to see our patrons show their support for our Summer Reading programs. The Friends of the Library sell the T-shirts to patrons on our behalf at cost. No other library system in our area sells T-shirts anymore due to the increased prices. A motion was made by Mrs. LeBlanc, seconded Mrs. Hubbell, to accept the Director Report. The motion carried unanimously.

New Business:

1. Discussion and approval of the 2024 Millage Letter; Mrs. Lucas explained, "Annually we send a letter to Parish Council regarding what millage rate we need to collect for the next tax cycle to cover our budget. At the current rates, we will collect approximately \$5.7million for the 2024 tax roll." Due to the budget being owed this amount, the high cost of inflation, the fact that we are rebuilding South Lafourche & Golden Meadow and our emergency reserves have been depleted. Also, discussed our inability to see what our revenue is due to being lumped into the Parish as we wait on a reply from the Parish Finance. Mrs. Sanders recommends to the Board that both library millages remain the same for 2024. A motion was made by Mrs. Bordelon, seconded by Mrs. Hearn, to approve sending the annual millage letter to the Parish requesting the library millage rates for 2024 remaining the same with #1047-017 (4.000) and #1047-014 (1.630). A roll call vote was taken; Ms. Smith yes, Mrs. Hubbell yes, Mrs. Bordelon yes, Mrs. Hearn yes, Mrs. LeBlanc yes, Mrs. Middleton yes, and Mrs. Soley absent. The motion carried 6-0-1.

With no further business to discuss, a motion for adjournment was made by Mrs. Bordelon, seconded by Mrs. LeBlanc, and carried unanimously. The Library Board of Control was adjourned at approximately 5:25pm.