

**St. Tammany Parish Library  
Board of Control Meeting  
October 2, 2024  
St. Tammany Parish Council Chambers  
21490 Koop Dr.  
Mandeville, LA 70471  
6:30 P.M.**

**MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order by Ann Shaw, Vice-President. Kelly LaRocca, Director, called the roll and declared that a quorum was present.

**Present:** Rev. Robert Belknap, Pam Georges, Carole Gillio, Jill Kesler, Tamarah Myers, Ann Shaw, Parish President Mike Cooper

**Absent:** None

Emily Couvillon with the Civil Division of the District Attorney's Office was also present as legal counsel for the library.

A. Shaw explained the meeting rules and the rules for public comment. A three-minute time limit is established for each member of the public wishing to speak (for or against) an item on the Agenda.

R. Belknap led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**1. Introduction of Incoming Board Members**

K. LaRocca introduced the new Library Board of Control (LBOC) members.

**2. Election of Officers**

A. Shaw listed the following open officer positions of the LBOC: President, Vice-President, and Secretary/Treasurer. The responsibilities of these officers are listed in the Rules and Regulations of the LBOC, which was provided to each board member as part of their onboarding process. C. Gillio moved to nominate Ann Shaw for President. The nomination was seconded by R. Belknap. A. Shaw accepted the nomination for President.

**Public Comment:**

Russell Besancon – Covington, LA. Stated that he is a retired Coast Guard Lieutenant and a retired librarian. Spoke of the exemplary service he receives at the Lee Road Branch. Stated that the LBOC's mission statement, vision statement, and ethics should bind the LBOC members in their duties. He read the statements aloud and cited the Louisiana Code of Ethics LA R.S. 42:1111-1121.

Johanna Miner – Stated that she thought that the LBOC President was to be chosen by Parish President Mike Cooper. Noted that the board members were voted in at the Parish Council meeting on May 2,

2024. Asked for an explanation of that process. Stated that she thought a Parish Council member was supposed to serve on the LBOC. E. Couvillon explained that the election of officers occurs amongst the LBOC members that have been seated. The board members elect a member to serve as Board President and chairperson of the LBOC. E. Couvillon explained that the Parish President sits as an ex-officio member of the LBOC. He can serve on the Board himself or appoint a councilperson to serve in his stead. If no councilperson wanted to serve, the Parish President could appoint a member of the public.

Donna Bonnoitt – Welcomed the new board members. Stated that she hopes the Board will choose community standards for the library.

Lisa Rustemeyer – Mandeville, LA. Stated that she is disappointed to be attending an LBOC meeting with an unresolved court case still pending. Stated that she has not noticed any interest in the library by the new board members prior to their selection. Stated that she is concerned that there is a board member who has praised a woman who assaulted her friend and attempted to “cripple” the library by submitting 150 book challenges. Spoke of teens, access to materials, and literacy rates. Stated that librarians and library supporters have been called groomers, perverts, and other offensive names.

Jamie Segura – Covington, LA. Commended library staff for their effort during the recent hurricane. Stated that she finds it amazing that the Board is electing officers while they are “illegitimate” in their roles as board members due to the pending court case. Spoke of the “legitimate” LBOC members who were in attendance. Noted that there were also Parish Council members in attendance. Spoke of the U.S. Constitution.

Rebecca Bohm – Mandeville, LA. Congratulated the new board members. Quoted the mission statement. Stated that libraries are apolitical and non-religious entities. Stated that the library has been the victim of a culture war led by a vocal minority that has divided the community. Spoke of the LBOC representing the entire diverse community. Spoke of book restrictions infringing upon First Amendment rights.

There were two public comments from individuals who did not wish to speak. They were not in favor of electing officers to the LBOC.

**Discussion:** There was no Board discussion.

A. Shaw called for a roll call vote on the earlier motion that was made by C. Gillio and seconded by R. Belknap to nominate Ann Shaw for Board President.

**Roll call vote:** Belknap: Yes Georges: Yes Gillio: Yes Kesler: Yes Myers: Yes Shaw: Yes Cooper: Yes  
Motion carried.

A. Shaw called for nominations for Vice-President. P. Georges moved to nominate Rev. Robert Belknap for Vice-President. It was seconded by T. Myers.

**Roll call vote:** Belknap: Yes Georges: Yes Gillio: Yes Kesler: Yes Myers: Yes Shaw: Yes Cooper: Yes  
Motion carried.

A. Shaw called for nominations for Secretary/Treasurer. T. Myers nominated Pam Georges for Secretary/Treasurer. It was seconded by R. Belknap.

**Roll call vote:** Belknap: Yes Georges: Yes Gillio: Yes Kesler: Yes Myers: Yes Shaw: Yes Cooper: Yes  
Motion carried.

**3. Approval of the minutes of the meeting of the Library Board of Control that was held on May 30, 2024.**

**Public Comment:**

Johanna Miner – Stated that she went to the Parish Council meeting on May 2, 2024, and that the council very fairly voted in the new board members. Stated that she does not recall a meeting with the new board members on May 30, 2024. Asked where and when this meeting was held, as she knew nothing about the meeting. Spoke of a “secret meeting” that she stated was held at the Slidell Branch library on June 16, 2023.

E. Couvillon explained that there was a meeting of the previous LBOC in the Parish Council chambers on May 30, 2024. Per the resolution adopted by the Parish Council on May 2, 2024, the terms of the new board members were effective beginning on June 1, 2024. J. Miner stated that the website showed that the meeting was canceled and stated that the library is trying to keep them from attending the meetings. E. Couvillon explained that the meeting was properly noticed, open to the public, the agenda was posted, and several of the new board members were in attendance.

Jamie Segura – Was not in favor of the new Board approving minutes of a meeting they did not attend. She acknowledged that some of the new board members were in the audience during the meeting in question.

**Discussion:** There were no suggested corrections to the minutes.

R. Belknap moved to approve the minutes of the LBOC meeting that was held on May 30, 2024. It was seconded by T. Myers.

**Roll call vote:** Belknap: Yes Georges: Yes Gillio: Yes Kesler: Yes Myers: Yes Shaw: Yes  
Cooper: Abstained

Motion carried.

**4. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Presentation of the salary study and potential adoption of new salary scale – Larry Robertson – Gallagher Consulting**

Larry Robertson of Gallagher Consulting presented the salary study and reviewed the recommended new rates of pay and pay scale. The study included a comprehensive analysis of positions and salaries in comparison to other library systems in the region and throughout the United States.

C. Gillio thanked Mr. Robertson for the presentation. She stated that she has spent a lot of time reviewing the material that was provided to the Board and has recently received the breakdown of employee categories. She stated that they were not supplied with the requirements for each position, such as which positions require college degrees, post-graduate work, and experience.

L. Robertson noted that he did receive job descriptions for all of the positions and that information was considered and was factored into the study. C. Gillio stated that the Board does not have those details and she would like to see the information that she has requested. She explained that she is not in favor of an \$11.30 hourly pay rate for a Library Associate, but would like to know what the requirements are for that position. L. Robertson stated that he would defer to the Director on that question.

C. Gillio stated that until she has that information, she will not be able to vote on this matter. She stated that she appreciates the hard work the firm has done, but she would like to see a few more facts and figures before making a decision. She stated that she would like to know how many employees in comparison libraries are occupying the same benchmark positions in our library. She noted that factors such as the size of the library, door count, and circulation statistics would need to be compared as well. She gave an example of the difference in workload between a busy doctor's office with three staff members checking in patients compared to a busy doctor's office with six or seven staff members checking in the same volume of patients. She reiterated that this is information she would like to have in order to vote intelligently. L. Robertson explained that staffing levels was not a part of the study.

J. Kesler referenced the salary structure spreadsheet and asked how it was determined that only 40% of staff in Pay Grades 4 and 5 will receive increases. L. Robertson explained that it was calculated using a formula based on the number of years the employee has been in the position multiplied by a percentage of the range minimum. J. Kesler stated that it would be helpful to show the formula at the bottom of the spreadsheet.

M. Cooper asked if K. LaRocca could provide answers as to how many full-timers and part-timers there are on staff. He referenced the Estimated Salary Cost chart and noted that 121 out of 147 are recommended to receive a raise. K. LaRocca stated that she can provide the full-time and part-time information. B. Geiger stated that almost all part-time positions are Library Associates I and II.

J. Kesler asked for clarification that only 121 out of 147 staff members will receive a pay increase or adjustment. L. Robertson confirmed that is correct. J. Kesler referenced the Total Proposed Payroll Costs and asked about FICA and other expenses. K. LaRocca explained that she worked with the library's CPA to ensure that FICA, retirement, and other associated expenses were properly calculated and budgeted for in the 2024 budget. This was in preparation for the possibility of the salary study being complete and adopted for the 2024 fiscal year. K. LaRocca confirmed that these figures are included in the 2025 proposed budget and includes enough money to cover all of the associated benefits and base salaries. K. LaRocca reiterated that the library can afford to implement these salary adjustments. She noted that there were two other options that were not affordable.

A. Shaw asked K. LaRocca to explain to the Board why the previous Board undertook the salary study. K. LaRocca explained that it was the result of feedback from surveys completed by staff as part of the strategic planning process. She also explained that Library Administration would interview and offer

positions to people and would be turned down due to the salary. She explained that the library is losing employees to surrounding parishes. K. LaRocca addressed the question about the number of employees at each branch. Staffing is something that Library Administration considers when reviewing door count and circulation statistics. She explained that as people leave employment with the library, Library Administration does evaluate whether or not the position needs to be filled or if those duties could be fulfilled by the remaining staff. K. LaRocca spoke about the people counters capital project and how that will help with collecting specific hourly data-driven statistics. She explained that there are initiatives coming up that need staffing, such as the new Mobile Library. K. LaRocca explained that she would like to redirect staff to those needed roles and make good decisions using accurate data and statistics.

J. Kesler asked about the staff turnover rate. B. Geiger stated that staff turnover is approximately 11%. He noted that there were three employees who left this month for employment elsewhere with a significant salary increase.

**Public comment:**

Kevin Marino – Mandeville, LA. Noted that something that has not been considered is the fact that the library staff has had to deal with book challenges for the last two years. Asked if the study included other libraries with similar challenges. Stated he is in favor of increasing salaries. Stated that even the increase of salaries is low. Noted the stress on librarians due to the book challenges and stated that they should be fairly compensated. Asked if the other two salary study options would be affordable if the millage is not reduced by as much as proposed.

Lisa Rustemeyer – Mandeville, LA. Stated that her experience with library staff is overwhelmingly positive. Stated that she is in favor of the salary increases and would like to see the staff paid what they are worth to the system.

Tamara Murray – Slidell, LA. Stated that she used to work for the library many years ago and loved her job. Stated that when she left in the early 2000s, her salary was close to \$10 per hour. Spoke about the job opening for a Genealogy Librarian requiring a master's degree in Library Science making between \$19 - \$25 per hour. Spoke about how much that is per month in relation to renting an apartment. Stated that a full-time Library Associate makes approximately \$22,000 per year. Stated that these are poverty wages and that even the minimal increase is not enough.

Russell Besancon – Noted that wages and compensation seems to be about 60% of the budget and stated that is a generous portion of the budget. Stated that in his experience at a research library in North Carolina, staff wages were about 45-48% and in a public library was 55-57%. Stated that in the academic world, access to PhDs, subject matter specialists, and access to the collection was unearned compensation.

M. Cooper asked when was the last significant compensation increase or adjustment. K. LaRocca stated that there was a cost of living increase last year, but it has been about 10-12 years since the salary ranges have been adjusted. There has never been a comprehensive study such as this one. M. Cooper asked if most of the 121 people are in the lower range of the salary scale. K. LaRocca clarified that the majority are at the bottom, there are some in the middle, some just above the middle, and the ones at the top are not receiving an increase.

T. Myers noted that there are some of the same positions listed with significantly different increases. K. LaRocca explained that it is based on their length of service in that position, not necessarily the length of time they have worked for the library.

M. Cooper stated that St. Tammany Parish Government made adjustments to their lower tier field workers salaries in 2020. He noted that the starting pay was \$10.87 and it is now over \$15 per hour.

P. Georges moved to approve the salary study and adopt the new salary scale. It was seconded by M. Cooper.

**Roll call vote:** Belknap: Yes Georges: Yes Gillio: Abstained Kesler: No Myers: Abstained Shaw: Yes  
Cooper: Yes

Motion carried.

C. Gillio commented that she abstained due to her request for more information. Stated that there is an obvious need for raises due to inflation. Stated that she is displeased with the low rates of pay for Library Associates, but she would like the information she has requested. J. Kesler commented that she voted no due to the need for more information. T. Myers commented that she abstained due to the need for more information.

K. LaRocca stated that she will make sure that the Board gets a copy of every job description and that the list is updated with full-time and part-time information. K. LaRocca stated that the new salary scale will take effect January 1, 2025.

## **B. Health Insurance Update**

Leon Golemi, the library's benefit consultant, presented the health insurance update and reviewed the reinsurance contract for 2025. The library is self-insured for health insurance but annually contracts with a reinsurance carrier to cover costs over and above the set limits for individuals and the organization as a whole. Because the contract is over \$100,000, it requires Board approval.

L. Golemi offered to meet with the Board at a later date to give them a full overview of the health plan. He reported that there will be no changes to health insurance benefits for employees and no changes to employee contributions to the health plan in 2025. He reviewed the spreadsheet detailing the reinsurance figures for the years 2020 through 2024 plus the renewal options for 2025. L. Golemi recommends renewing the contract with Zurich as the reinsurance carrier for 2025, as it is the best option for the library.

L. Golemi noted that the biggest challenge is prescription drug costs, which are increasing due to inflation and comprises 49-50% of the health plan costs. He reported that there are some innovative options that are being explored that will be offered in 2025 to help with these costs. He noted that Library Administration has worked hard to keep costs down while maintaining the same level of benefits.

R. Belknap asked K. LaRocca if the library's budget includes the increase in annual aggregate exposure of approximately \$130,000. K. LaRocca confirmed that the 2025 budget does include that increase.

**Public Comment:**

Donalyn Hassenboehler – Covington, LA. Stated that the salaries being offered are for a mostly female workforce and is not enough compensation for what they do. Spoke highly of the ladies who work at the Covington Branch. Stated that if the library was a predominately male workforce, the salaries would be higher.

R. Belknap moved to approve the renewal of the Zurich reinsurance contract. It was seconded by C. Gillio.

**Roll call vote:** Belknap: Yes Georges: Yes Gillio: Yes Kesler: Yes Myers: Yes Shaw: Yes Cooper: Yes  
Motion carried.

**C. Millage renewal request**

K. LaRocca explained that the library's millage will expire on December 31, 2024. The millage term is 15 years. The library currently receives 5.78 mills – 4.91 mills are used for operations and .87 mills are used for capital improvements to library buildings. The library is requesting that the Parish Council call for a renewal of the library's millage at a reduced rate of 4.35 mills for 15 years. K. LaRocca is requesting this adjustment so that the library will not unduly benefit from the rise in assessments associated with this year's reassessment process.

K. LaRocca explained that the library can reduce the millage because the bonds that funded the construction of the Madisonville Branch will be paid off at the end of the current millage term. The library will also finish receiving funding for the capital projects listed on the Capital Plan that was approved by the Parish Council. The March 29, 2025, election is the first election of the 2025 calendar year. Choosing this election date means that the library will share the ballot with another Parish ballot initiative and reduce costs associated with the election. The Board will need to pass a resolution requesting that the Parish Council place us on the ballot for the March 29, 2025, election along with the reduced millage rate of 4.35 mills for 15 years. K. LaRocca read the resolution aloud.

J. Kesler asked how much it costs to be placed on the election ballot. K. LaRocca stated that if the library millage renewal is the only item on the ballot, then the cost would be \$250,000. This cost is included in the library's 2025 budget. She explained that the Parish's Sales Tax District 3 proposition will potentially be on the ballot as well, so our cost will be less.

M. Cooper noted that two Parish Council members, Patrick Burke and Jeff Corbin, were in attendance. M. Cooper stated that Parish Government has been discussing the library's millage renewal being placed on the March 29, 2025, ballot along with the Sales Tax District #3 proposition. M. Cooper explained that there is a time constraint, as the Parish Council will be officially calling for the March 2025 election at the November 7, 2024, Parish Council meeting. He emphasized that the resolution will have to be passed tonight so that the Parish Council could vote on it at their November meeting.

**Public Comment:**

Joan Simon – Covington, LA. Supports the millage and stated that one of the bright lights of the Parish is the library. Stated that the library has incredible services and is well-run by K. LaRocca and staff.

Donna Bonnoitt – Asked if it is correct that the library has a “big pad” of about \$12,000,000. K. LaRocca stated that is not correct. She explained that there is about \$6,000,000 in savings dedicated to operational reserves, disaster recovery, and other purposes that are detailed in the budget amendment. K. LaRocca stated that there is about \$6,000,000 in capital funding which is dedicated for capital projects, such as the Lacombe Branch replacement and the Slidell Branch expansion project. She explained that the funds are not available for the library to spend at will for other purposes. D. Bonnoitt stated that she appreciates the millage being lowered because the library is “overfunded and over bloated.”

Kevin Marino – Mandeville, LA. Supports the millage renewal. Stated that the library is underfunded and referenced the salary study. Asked if the lower millage is enough to cover the cost of the new Lacombe Branch and other future capital projects. Stated that the LBOC has a fiduciary responsibility to make sure the library functions properly and is well funded. Would like the LBOC and the Parish Council to publicly support the millage renewal, as there are others who have publicly stated that they want the millage to fail.

Johanna Miner – Thanked the Board and Parish President Mike Cooper for working to lower the millage. Asked where the new Lacombe Branch will be. K. LaRocca stated that land was purchased diagonally across the street from the current branch and capital funds were used for the purchase. J. Miner stated that she used to take her family to the library but stopped when she saw the egregious materials that her children and grandchildren could access. Stated that the library could be a wonderful place, but does not want millage money to go towards purchasing those materials.

Lisa Rustemeyer – Mandeville, LA. Supports the millage renewal. Stated that she trusts the librarians and the library is a safe and welcoming place. Stated that the library is a Parish gem. Stated that it is dystopian to think of the library not existing. Spoke of service statistics. Spoke of families saving money by using the library’s services.

Barbara Hargrove – Abita Springs, LA. Stated that she uses the library for various reasons and visits almost every branch. Stated that the library is wonderful and very well run. Supports the millage renewal. Concerned about the controversy and stress of the last two years affecting the millage renewal.

Jamie Segura – Stated that she does not think the library should be reducing the millage. Stated that the cost of everything is increasing. Spoke of the way government and communities are supposed to operate. Asked for the LBOC to vocally support the millage renewal. Stated that people in St. Tammany can afford the millages and asked the Board not to reduce the library’s millage.

Rebecca Bohm – Mandeville, LA. Stated that she hopes the LBOC will support the millage. Asked if there is a second opportunity to pass the millage if it does not pass in March 2025. K. LaRocca asked for clarification from E. Couvillon, who explained that the library could be placed on a ballot in a Fall 2025



election, but would not be able to collect a millage for 2025. The library would need to use what is in reserves to fund the library system until that tax could be collected. E. Couvillon emphasized that the millage must pass in March 2025 in order to avoid a gap in funding. R. Bohm stated that the library is the gem of the Parish. Asked for the Parish Council to support the millage.

Jean Wiggan – Supports keeping or raising the millage. Stated that she spends many hours in the library while teaching children to read. Stated that she has never seen anything but joyful families in the library. Stated that the way the library is portrayed by some people is a lie. Spoke about tax statistics in Louisiana. Asked for the new Board to support the millage renewal.

There were two public comments from individuals who did not wish to speak. They were both in favor of renewing the millage.

J. Kesler asked what the consequences are if the millage does not pass. K. LaRocca explained that the library will have the funds that are in Savings, which is less than half of one year's worth of operating revenue and the \$6,000,000 in capital funding, which was meant for a new Lacombe Branch, expansion of the Slidell Branch, the RFID installation project (Radio Frequency Identification), and the people counters project. K. LaRocca reiterated what E. Couvillon stated earlier and explained that if the millage does not pass in March 2025, we could be placed on the November 2025 ballot, but the library will receive no funding in 2026 (due to not collecting a millage for 2025).

K. LaRocca stated that we will need to use all of the savings and all of the money that was dedicated to capital projects to run the library in 2026. There would be no savings left, no operational reserves, no disaster recovery funds, no furniture replacement projects, no capital projects such as the new Lacombe Branch and Slidell Branch expansion. K. LaRocca further explained that if the millage fails in March 2025 and we try again in November 2025, we would need to ask for more than the proposed reduced millage rate. She explained that the library needs to have operational reserves and disaster recovery funds in order to be responsible for the 12 branches and 150 staff members. K. LaRocca stated that honesty and transparency is important and emphasized that we are only asking voters for exactly what we need to run the library.

C. Gillio commented that this is a better strategy than asking for a higher millage.

R. Belknap moved to adopt the Request for Millage Renewal Election and Reduced Rate resolution as presented. It was seconded by P. Georges.

**Roll call vote:** Belknap: Yes Georges: Yes Gillio: Yes Kesler: Yes Myers: Yes Shaw: Yes Cooper: Yes  
Motion carried.

#### **D. Financial Reports – May, June, July, August 2024**

The Board was provided financial reports for May, June, July, and August 2024. K. LaRocca explained that each financial report is cumulative and she will be reviewing the August financial report since it is up-to-date. K. LaRocca reported that the library has received \$12,474,891.98 in Ad Valorem Revenue

and \$176,200.94 in State Revenue Sharing for the year. She explained that State Revenue Sharing is paid to us in three equal payments and we expect one more payment before the end of the year.

K. LaRocca reviewed the August 2024 financial reports. She explained that the tax revenue is reported on the financial statements on an accrual basis. The budget percentage should be 66.66% in August. Revenues are at 66.48% and expenditures are at 64.09%.

K. LaRocca gave explanations for any lines that were over or under budget. Most of the variances are due to expenses being due early or late in the year. She reminded the Board that Library Salaries will be under budget for the year due to the salary adjustments being implemented in 2025 instead of 2024.

J. Kesler asked for an explanation of Health Trust. K. LaRocca explained that there is a fixed cost for our health insurance. The Health Trust line is for the actual payments we make to doctors, hospitals, and pharmacies. K. LaRocca explained that she budgets for the maximum exposure, but we may not always hit that maximum. Leon Golemi keeps K. LaRocca updated on those figures throughout the year.

R. Belknap asked about membership dues and asked if the library is a member of the ALA (American Library Association). K. LaRocca answered that the library is not a member of the ALA.

R. Belknap moved to approve the Financial Reports. It was seconded by C. Gillio.

**Roll call vote:** Belknap: Yes Georges: Yes Gillio: Yes Kesler: Yes Myers: Yes Shaw: Yes Cooper: Yes  
Motion carried.

### **E. Director's Report**

K. LaRocca reviewed the Director's Report. Bids on furniture for Causeway, Covington, and the Mobile Library office closed on June 24. Landscape construction started on July 9 at Covington. Quotes for the People Counter devices were opened by the Parish's Procurement Office. Southern Interior Solutions donated a Kolo Pod, a modular study room, to the Slidell Branch. The computer lab at Covington was moved to the front of the library. The reference shelves and desk were moved to where the computer lab was located. There was damage to the Lacombe Branch due to Hurricane Francine. We are gathering quotes for a new TPO (Thermoplastic polyolefin) roof, which is a single-ply roofing membrane.

Staff offered outreach services to the following organizations: Chamber of Commerce, several COAST Centers, Children's Cottage, Florida Avenue STEM Club, Appletree Camp, Kidz Club Camp, Little Academy Camp, Saint Margaret Mary, Northshore Kids Academy, Folsom Kiwanis Club, Chahta-Ima Elementary, and Lacombe-Mandeville Headstart. Staff promoted the library on The Lake and The Highway radio stations. Staff attended several meetings and events as part of professional development.

K. LaRocca reviewed the contract renewals and gave a strategic planning update. She gave an update on the transition of materials and referenced the list of books that were moved from Young Adult Fiction to Adult Fiction.

K. LaRocca reviewed the service statistics from May, June, July, and August 2024, and the year-to-date service statistics. The year-to-date statistics as of the end of August were as follows: Total circulation - 673,054, door count - 412,222, computer usage - 57,162, wireless usage inside - 56,498, and wireless usage outside - 51,889.

A. Shaw thanked K. LaRocca and the staff for doing an outstanding job.

J. Corbin commented on the effort the staff is making on the evaluations of the books in the Children's and Young Adult sections. Stated that it is a great plan and commented that the library card system helps parents give or restrict access to materials for their children. Asked if there is a system to note where a book is located if it were moved to another section. K. LaRocca stated that we could use the "dummy books" (cardboard books used as placeholders) for that purpose.

#### **F. Summer Reading Wrap-Up Presentation**

T. DiMaggio reviewed the Summer Reading Challenge statistics. It was a successful summer and the statistics were back to pre-COVID participation numbers. The library held over 500 programs for children, teens, and adults. The Board viewed the Summer Reading Challenge Wrap-Up video that showed highlights from many of the programs that took place throughout the Parish this summer.

#### **G. Fall Budget Amendment – To allow for storm recovery expenditures due to Hurricane Francine**

K. LaRocca gave an explanation of the differences in revenue and expenditure forecasts between the 2024 Summer Budget Amendment and the 2024 Fall Budget Amendment. There were only adjustments made to three expenditure lines. The Disaster Recovery Costs line was increased to cover the costs of repairs to the Lacombe Branch. The Vehicle Insurance line was increased because insurance on the new passenger van is higher than the previous vehicle. The General Liability line is increased due to adding the Outreach facility to the insurance policy. K. LaRocca read the Fall Budget Amendment resolution aloud.

**Public Comment:** There was no public comment.

**Discussion:** There was no Board discussion.

R. Belknap moved to adopt the 2024 Fall Budget Amendment resolution. It was seconded by T. Myers.

**Roll call vote:** Belknap: Yes Georges: Yes Gillio: Yes Kesler: Yes Myers: Yes Shaw: Yes Cooper: Yes  
Motion carried.

**H. Resolution to extend time to allow for the procedural due process of undecided Statements of Concern**

K. LaRocca asked the Board to extend the 45-day time limit for responding to all pending Statements of Concern and any statements that will be received until the next meeting of the Library Board of Control scheduled for October 30, 2024. The response time would be extended to 120 days from the date of this resolution.

T. Myers stated that 120 days is a big jump from 45 days and asked if the time limit could be reduced. K. LaRocca stated that the Board can choose any time period they would like for the extension of time. She explained that staff would need to provide the Board with copies of all of the books and the Board would need to read all of them within that time period.

**Public Comment:**

Kevin Marino – Mandeville, LA. Stated that he submitted 70+ of the newest Statements of Concern due to the resolution that directs all graphic novels with sexual conduct to be moved behind the circulation desk. Supports passing the resolution to extend time, but asked the Board to reconsider the graphic novel policy.

**Discussion:** There was no Board discussion

K. LaRocca read the resolution aloud.

C. Gillio moved to approve the resolution to extend time to allow for the procedural due process of undecided Statements of Concern. It was seconded by P. Georges.

**Roll call vote:** Belknap: Yes Georges: Yes Gillio: Yes Kesler: Yes Myers: Yes Shaw: Yes Cooper: Yes  
Motion carried.

**I. 2025 Holiday schedule**

B. Geiger presented the 2025 Holiday Schedule. The schedule lists all of the official holidays and system-wide closed days related to the holidays. The policy regarding holidays from the Employee Handbook was provided to the Board for their reference.

J. Kesler asked how the holidays were determined. B. Geiger explained that they are traditional holidays that are approved as part of the Employee Handbook. K. LaRocca confirmed that they are Federal and State holidays.

P. Georges moved to approve the 2025 Holiday Schedule. It was seconded by T. Myers.

**Roll call vote:** Belknap: Yes Georges: Yes Gillio: Yes Kesler: Yes Myers: Yes Shaw: Yes Cooper: Yes  
Motion carried.

**J. Designation of Surplus Property**

T. DiMaggio reported that the I.T. Department has identified outdated equipment in storage that can no longer be used by the library. This equipment was originally purchased as backup and was never needed. A resolution is required so the items can be sold at the next scheduled Government Surplus auction at ServCorp Auctions in Slidell, LA.

J. Kesler asked where does the money go from the auction. K. LaRocca stated that it goes under the Miscellaneous Income line because we do not have an Auction Receivables line.


E. Couvillon advised that the resolution did not have to be read aloud.

R. Belknap moved to adopt the resolution to declare surplus property and authorize its disposition. It was seconded by C. Gillio.

**Roll call vote:** Belknap: Yes Georges: Yes Gillio: Yes Kesler: Yes Myers: Yes Shaw: Yes Cooper: Yes  
Motion carried.

**5. Adjournment**

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by M. Cooper and was seconded by P. Georges. All were in favor, none were opposed, and none were absent. Motion carried.

  
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Pam Georges, Secretary/Treasurer