

Ouachita Parish Public Library

Board of Control

Minutes

October 12, 2023

The Ouachita Parish Library Board of Control Meeting was held on Thursday, October 12, 2023, at the Main Branch of the Ouachita Parish Public Library. In attendance were the following members: Ms. Betty Ward Cooper, President; Mr. Darris Waren, Vice-President; Ms. Alex Webre; Mr. Larry Bratton, ex-officio member; and Ms. Kathy Craig. Ms. Misti Cordell arrived at 12:24pm. Mr. Wyman Mardis and Ms. Mashie Epting were absent. Also attending were Mr. Brad Cammack, OPPJ Treasurer; Mr. Jay Mitchell, OPPJ Assistant District Attorney; Ms. Nancy Green, OPPL Acting Director; Ms. LaKeisha Bosworth, OPPL Assistant Director; and Ms. Casie Castle, OPPL Business Manager.

President Betty Ward- Cooper called the meeting to order at 12:05pm, and Mr. Waren led the invocation.

There were no agenda changes, and the agenda was approved on a motion by Ms. Craig, seconded by Ms. Webre.

There were no guests.

The minutes from the previous meeting held on September 14, 2023, were approved on a motion by Mr. Waren, seconded by Ms. Craig with all present voting in favor of approval.

The 2023 Amended Operations and Capital Outlay Budget and 2024 Proposed Operations and Capital Outlay Budget for the Ouachita Parish Public Library were presented. The increase in AD Valorem was noted as well as the increase in Interest Earnings. Several line items were discussed, and explanations given. There were small reductions in several categories. 2024 Revenue reflects an anticipated increase in property taxes along with a continuation of return to normal revenue from operations as things continue to get back to normal. A Cost-of-Living adjustment of 4% for each employee was included as there is expected to be an increase in Health insurance in 2024. Capital outlay included the \$7.8 million budgeted to begin renovations to the new Main Branch building as well as a transfer of additional funds for future land acquisition for the Carver-McDonald Branch and building upkeep at the Branches.

The Amended 2023 Operations and Capital Outlay Budget and the Proposed 2024 Operations and Capital Outlay Budget were approved on a motion by Mr. Waren and a second by Ms. Weber. All members voted in favor.

Mr. Mitchell discussed the results of appraisal of the Dhaliwal Property which the board was considering for the Carver-McDonald Branch site. He stated the appraisal came in at \$150,500. Mr. Roark approached Mr. Dhaliwal with this information but Mr. Dhaliwal declined the possibility of an offer from the library of \$150,500 for a future Carver-McDonald Branch. It was suggested that the board keep inquiring with Mr. Dhaliwal over time in case he changes his mind. President Cooper then mentioned that she had another potential piece of land for the board to consider.

The Statistical, Financial, and Personnel Reports for the month of September of 2023 had been emailed earlier to the members of the Board for review before the meeting.

The Statistical Report for the month of September 2023, was approved on a motion by Mr. Warren, seconded by Ms. Webre.

The Financial Report for September 2023 was approved on a motion by Ms. Webre, seconded by Ms. Cordell.

The Personnel Report for September 2023 was next approved on a motion by Ms. Craig, seconded by Mr. Warren.

There was no other business on the agenda.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:21 pm on a motion by Mr. Warren, seconded by Ms. Cordell, with all voting in favor.

Respectfully submitted.

Nancy Green, Acting Director, and Secretary

Betty Ward-Cooper, President