

Ouachita Parish Public Library

Board of Control

Minutes

April 9, 2026

The Ouachita Parish Public Library Board of Control met on Thursday, April 9, 2026, at 12:00 noon at the Main Branch. The following members were present: Alex Webre, President; Ms. Betty Cooper; Mr. Darris Waren; Ms. Debbie Blue; and Mr. Larry Bratton. Absent were Kathy Craig and Misti Cordell. Also, present Jennifer Johnson, Assistant District Attorney; Ms. Nancy Green, OPPL Director, and Ms. LaKeisha Bosworth, Assistant Director.

President Alex Webre called the meeting to order, and Darris Waren gave the invocation.

Mr. Bill Land of Land 3 Architect was the only visitor.

There was one agenda change. A motion to discuss the planned move to the new branch and the information on movers and quotes for the move. All voted in favor of this addition to the agenda. Motion approved.

There were no public comments.

Mr. Bill Land then began his update on the progress of the new Main Branch. He began with the progress of the site sign with the letters to be installed next week. He then stated that the furniture is almost complete and the audiovisual is in progress. The parking lot pavement is almost ready to be striped, as the additional soft spots have been repaired, and the change order for that will go to the Police Jury at the next meeting. He mentioned that there may be one other change order needed for multiple switches to accommodate an electrical relay needed for the IT server room. Mr. Land indicated that almost all the murals for the inside of the building had been installed, and he presented the lettering for the signage outside the building. He indicated that he thought that all would be complete by the end of the month.

Jennifer Johnson then gave a report on the status of the West Ouachita Branch repairs. She indicated that Mark Johnson, Police Jury Maintenance Supervisor, was in the process of getting quotes from contractors on needed work on the inside of the building and roof work. The roof work needed will be determined by whether the roof can be repaired or if a completely new roof is needed. Ms. Johnson also mentioned that the deductible comes out of the Self-insured Police Jury fund.

The minutes from the March 12, 2026, meeting were reviewed and approved on a motion by Mr. Bratton, seconded by Ms. Blue.

The monthly reports were then presented.

The monthly statistical report for March 2026 was reviewed and approved on a motion by Ms. Cooper, seconded by Mr. Bratton.

The financial report as of March 2026 was reviewed and approved on a motion by Ms. Blue and seconded by Ms. Cooper.

Personnel changes for March 2026 were reviewed and approved on a motion by Ms. Blue, seconded by Mr. Bratton.

Ms. Green then informed the Board about the progress of contacting Moving Companies for the upcoming move of the contents of the Main Branch Library from 1800 Stubbs to the new Main Branch at 1000 Oliver Road. Quotes were received from Ross Moving and LA PEARL Moving Company. Ross Moving gave two quotes, the first one was \$23, 735 on March 31, 2026, and came back on April 7, 2026, with another quote of \$38, 613. LA PEARL gave a quote on April 8, 2026, of "not to exceed \$26,000.

A motion was made by Mr. Bratton to accept the quote from LA PEARL and was seconded by Ms. Blue, with all in favor.

Ms. Green also mentioned that it would take at least 3 weeks to make this move and that the Main Branch would need to be closed for that length of time, but this closing time for the Main Branch should not have any effect on other branches. IT has made plans to have only a very short downtime, if any, during this transition.

The meeting was adjourned on a motion from Mr. Waren, seconded by Ms. Blue.

The next scheduled meeting of the Ouachita Parish Public Library is May 14 2026.

Alex Webre, President

Nancy Green, Secretary