

St. Tammany Parish Library Board of Control Meeting
December 15, 2025
St. Tammany Parish Council Chambers
21490 Koop Dr., Mandeville, LA 70471
6:30 P.M.

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Charles (Chuck) Branton, Board President. Brent Geiger, Co-Interim Director, called the roll and declared that a quorum was present.

Present (6): Glenn Baham, Chuck Branton, Councilman Jeff Corbin (designated by Parish President Mike Cooper), Tamarah Myers, Pennie Petrie, Travis Thompson
Absent (1): Dinah Thanars

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

C. Branton led the Pledge of Allegiance. T. Thompson led the invocation. C. Branton explained the meeting rules and the rules for public comment.

1. Approval of the minutes of the meeting of the Library Board of Control that was held on October 27, 2025

DISCUSSION: There was no Board discussion.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

James Prentice – He shared greetings from his wife, Jill, and mentioned that they have both recently returned after extended illnesses.

Lisa Rustemeyer – She disagreed with reducing the length of the minutes, stating they do not accurately reflect her public comments and suggested posting a narrative version online while publishing the legally required summary in the newspaper.

E. Couvillon advised that published minutes must match those approved by the Board and it was her suggestion to pare the minutes down to the legally required content, as defined in Section 112 of the Rules and Regulations of the Library Board of Control, consistent with Louisiana's Open Meetings Law (LA R.S. 42:20). She noted the meeting recordings are posted online and are the most accurate record of the meeting.

MOTION: G. Baham moved to approve the minutes of the October 27, 2025, LBOC meeting. It was seconded by J. Corbin.

VOTE: Baham: Yes Corbin: Yes Myers: Yes Petrie: Yes Thanars: Absent Thompson: Yes Branton: Yes

RESULT: Motion to approve the minutes carried. (Yes – 6 | Absent – 1)

2. OLD BUSINESS

A. Report on Programming and Partial Schematic Design of new Lacombe Branch by RCL Architecture, LLC

Paul Dimitrios, Holly Morales, and Vince Alvero with RCL Architecture presented a slideshow presentation of the proposed property and building designs for the new Lacombe Branch Library. J. Corbin asked about the exterior material that appears to be wood. P. Dimitrios explained that it is a geolam product made of aluminum with a wood-like coating, not real wood.

B. Resolution #25-025 Approval to Proceed to Phase 2 and Phase 3(a) of the Professional Service Contract for the Replacement of the Lacombe Branch Library (Branton)

C. Branton explained that this resolution allows the architects to move forward with the process.

MOTION: C. Branton moved to adopt Res. 25-025. It was seconded by T. Thompson.

T. DiMaggio referenced the Capital Projects spreadsheet and explained that the library earned more interest than originally projected, ensuring sufficient funds to cover the project's cost estimate.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

James Prentice – He supports the project moving forward, but is concerned about flooding. He inquired about sea level, square footage, drainage ditches, sewer treatment plant, lawn maintenance, and other expenses.

Jamie Segura – She expressed concerns regarding the site elevation and the septic system draining into the ditches and inquired about the possibility of future expansion of the library.

J. Corbin clarified that the system would not be a septic system but an individual sewerage treatment system fully certified to discharge into the ditch. Additionally, any building development will be subject to St. Tammany Parish's Unified Development Code.

VOTE: Baham: Yes Corbin: Yes Myers: Yes Petrie: Yes Thanars: Absent Thompson: Yes Branton: Yes

RESULT: Motion to adopt Res. 25-025 carried. (Yes – 6 | Absent – 1)

C. Personnel Committee Report

G. Baham reported that the committee narrowed down the list of applicants by eliminating candidates who did not meet the minimum qualifications. The committee will meet again on Wednesday, December 17, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. at the Slidell Branch to continue narrowing the applicant pool. The committee anticipates scheduling interviews in January or February.

3. NEW BUSINESS

A. Financial Report – October 2025

T. DiMaggio presented the October 2025 financial report. She reported that an additional Ad Valorem revenue payment of \$10,652.11 was received on December 3, 2025. The budget percentage should be 83% at the end of October. Revenues are at 83.32% and Expenditures are at 80.48%. T. DiMaggio

reviewed the budget lines that were over or under budget, noting that several items will be adjusted during the budget amendment later in the meeting. She will provide additional detailed explanations at that time.

MOTION: T. Myers moved to approve the October 2025 financial report. It was seconded by G. Baham.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

James Prentice – He spoke about the budget percentage for lease expenses, consultant fees, conventions, and Adult books. He inquired whether the convention expenses were for attending American Library Association (ALA) meetings.

Lisa Rustemeyer – Mandeville, LA. She spoke in support of the library and commended its responsible stewardship of tax dollars. She asked about the timeline for the Mandeville Branch renovation.

Jean Wiggin – She spoke in support of the library and the budget and stated that if professionals choose to belong to a professional organization, that is their decision.

VOTE: Baham: Yes Corbin: Yes Myers: Yes Petrie: Yes Thanars: Absent Thompson: Yes Branton: Yes

RESULT: Motion to approve carried. (Yes – 6 | Absent – 1)

B. Co-Interim Director's Report

T. DiMaggio reported updates to facilities, capital projects (Mandeville Branch renovation, Lacombe Branch replacement, and Slidell Branch renovation), marketing and outreach efforts, professional development, program highlights, contracts, strategic plan updates, public records requests, Statements of Concern, and the transition of materials from Young Adult (YA) to the Adult and Teen collections. A total of 46% of the YA collection has been reviewed. She reviewed the October, November, and year-to-date statistics.

J. Corbin noted that the appeals of the 70 Statements of Concern stem from a decision of a prior Board and suggested the current Board consider reaffirming that decision at a future meeting. He suggested establishing a response deadline for the 27 SOC's awaiting responses, after which any SOC lacking a response would be closed. He suggested using a database to assist in reviewing materials to help evaluate the remaining YA titles awaiting review. T. DiMaggio noted that staff are currently using a variety of tools in the review process.

C. Resolution #25-026 – Final Amendment to the 2025 Budget (Branton)

T. DiMaggio presented the Final Amendment to the 2025 Budget. The amendment explanation and spreadsheets were provided in the Board packet. An overall increase in revenue of \$26,370 is expected. T. DiMaggio gave explanations for the following line adjustments: Health Insurance, Network Utility Software, OCLC, Physical Plant Maintenance, Electrical, Movers, Library In-Service Training, Conventions/Seminars, Improvements to Physical Plant, Vehicles, Office Equipment, Furniture and Shelving, Audio/Visual Equipment, Adult Books, Electronic/Downloadable Media, and CDROM/Software.

T. DiMaggio reviewed the Savings spreadsheet, which includes the dedications for operational reserves, disaster/recovery emergency funds, Mandeville Branch furniture, Slidell Branch furniture, Lacombe

Branch furniture, fixtures, and equipment (FF&E), 4th quarter 2025 retirement, and 2026 operating FF&E (Abita Springs furniture and Technical Services building generator).

T. DiMaggio discussed movable shelving, modular study rooms, and projected furniture costs for the Mandeville and Lacombe branches, with T. Thompson and P. Petrie providing feedback. T. DiMaggio reminded the Board that, at its direction, she can adjust the allocated amounts of the dedicated reserve funds for the furniture projects as needed.

MOTION: G. Baham moved to adopt Res. 25-026. It was seconded by J. Corbin.

VOTE: Baham: Yes Corbin: Yes Myers: Yes Petrie: Yes Thanars: Absent Thompson: Yes Branton: Yes

RESULT: Motion to adopt Res. 25-026 carried. (Yes – 6 | Absent – 1)

D. Resolution #25-027 – Extension of time to allow for procedural due process of undecided Statements of Concern (Branton)

T. DiMaggio presented a resolution requesting Board approval to extend the response period to 120 days from the date of this resolution for all pending Statements of Concern (SOC) and any SOCs received before the next LBOC meeting on February 23, 2026.

MOTION: C. Branton moved to adopt Res. 25-027. It was seconded by G. Baham.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Devin McGee – He spoke in support of granting the extension of time. He expressed concern about the content of certain library materials that he considers inappropriate.

Cynthia Weatherly – She expressed concern about the length of time it has taken to review challenged books, noting that fewer than 20 books are reviewed on average each year.

James Prentice – He agreed with the previous speaker and is not in favor of the extension of time. He noted that the SOCs that he submitted from 2023 through the present have not been reviewed.

Lisa Rustemeyer – She agreed with setting a deadline for complainants to respond to letters sent regarding their open SOCs. She questioned the 120-day extension period and raised concern about the 134 graphic novels behind the circulation desk.

J. Corbin reiterated his earlier suggestions for moving through the book review process.

VOTE: Baham: Yes Corbin: Yes Myers: Yes Petrie: Yes Thanars: Absent Thompson: Yes Branton: Yes

RESULT: Motion to adopt Res. 25-027 carried. (Yes – 6 | Absent – 1)

E. Election of Officers (Myers)

T. Myers explained that the Board is due to elect officers at the end of the year and reported that she has not received interest from anyone other than the current officers.

MOTION: T. Myers moved that the current officers continue in their respective positions: C. Branton as President, G. Baham as Vice-President, and T. Myers as Secretary/Treasurer. It was seconded by P. Petrie.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

James Prentice – He supported the stated Election of Officers.

Lisa Rustemeyer – She is opposed to C. Branton serving in a Board position, citing concerns about unequal treatment of groups and expressing a desire for a Board President who promotes more balanced discussion.

Jean Wiggin – She agreed with L. Rustemeyer’s comments.

Kristen Luchsinger – She is opposed to the stated Election of Officers, citing a need for improved leadership, transparency, and accountability. She suggested T. Myers or T. Thompson as Board President.

G. Baham asked for clarification on when the current officers were elected, and C. Branton stated it was after Ann Shaw resigned in July 2025.

VOTE: Baham: Yes Corbin: Yes Myers: Yes Petrie: Yes Thanars: Absent Thompson: Yes Branton: Yes
RESULT: Motion to approve carried. (Yes – 6 | Absent – 1)

F. Alcohol Request – St. Tammany Library Foundation

T. DiMaggio explained that the Library Foundation will hold its annual membership meeting on Wednesday, January 28, 2026, at the Madisonville Branch and requests Board approval to serve wine in the meeting room with food. Approval is required by the Board for any alcohol served at the library.

C. Branton asked if anyone from the Library Foundation was present to speak. Suzanne Myers spoke on behalf of the Library Foundation. She explained that she serves on the St. Tammany Library Foundation board and noted that, in past years, the LBOC granted permission to serve wine at their annual meetings. Typically, two to three bottles are served, with no misuse reported at the social event.

C. Branton asked if a bartender will be present. S. Myers replied that there would be no bartender, and two to three bottles would be available on the table for self-service. G. Baham asked if the library would be open during this event. S. Myers replied yes, the meeting is from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. She added that meeting attendees are members of the Library Foundation.

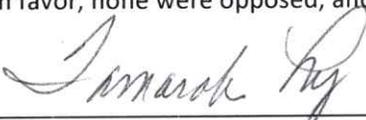
MOTION: J. Corbin moved to approve the alcohol request. There was no second.

RESULT: The motion failed due to lack of a second.

4. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by G. Baham and was seconded by T. Thompson. All were in favor, none were opposed, and one member was absent. Motion carried.

APPROVAL:



Tamarah Myers, Board Secretary/Treasurer