St. Tammany Parish Library Board of Control Special Meeting
June 25, 2026
St. Tammany Parish Library Covington Branch
310 W 21st Ave., Covington, LA 70433
3:00 P.M.

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Charles (Chuck) Branton, Board President. The roll was called and a quorum was established.

Present (7): Glenn Baham, Chuck Branton, Parish President Mike Cooper, Tamarah Myers, Pennie Petrie, Dinah Thanars, Travis Thompson
Absent (0): None

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

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

1. NEW BUSINESS

A. Designation of Capital Funds – Slidell Library Project Construction Costs (Resolution # 26-015 Branton) – Includes presentation from Meyer Engineers, Ltd.

Alton Davis of Watermark Design Group (formerly Meyer Engineers) updated the Board on the project status and reported that the project is ready to proceed with an estimated construction budget of $3.6 million.

T. Collings, Library Director, explained that the resolutions were being considered at a special meeting to meet the Parish's July 7th deadline. The Board is requesting that St. Tammany Parish designate $3,750,000 from the Library's unassigned fund balance for construction costs associated with the Slidell Library Project. He explained the difference between hard and soft costs, noting that the Parish has already dedicated the soft costs and that the next step is to dedicate the hard costs for construction.

G. Baham asked when construction would begin. A. Davis explained that the project will likely be going out to bid in early 2027, construction should take 9-12 months, and the building is expected to be operational in 2028. A. Davis discussed roof-related issues and options for maintaining occupancy during construction. M. Cooper confirmed that the Parish Engineering Department has reviewed the architect's estimates, concurs with them, and he supports adoption of the resolution.

PUBLIC COMMENT: There was no public comment.
MOTION: A motion to adopt Res. 26-015 was made by T. Myers, seconded by P. Petrie.
VOTE: Baham: *Yes* Cooper: *Yes* Myers: *Yes* Petrie: *Yes* Thanars: *Yes* Thompson: *Yes* Branton: *Yes*
RESULT: Motion carried. (Unanimous)

B. Designation of Capital Funds – Lacombe Library Project Construction Costs (Resolution # 26-016 Branton) – Includes presentation from RCL Architecture

Paul Dimitrios of RCL Architecture provided a project update. Construction documents are expected to be completed within two to three months, with bidding to follow and construction anticipated in 2027. The budget estimate is $3.5 million for construction costs.

T. Collings recommended dedicating $3,750,000 to the project to account for typical construction contingencies and noted that any unused funds will remain in the capital fund.

C. Branton asked for confirmation that the estimates had been reviewed and approved by Parish Engineering, and P. Dimitrios confirmed that they had. He added that there are no known obstacles at this time and that the project has been well received by both the Parish and the Tammany Trace.

PUBLIC COMMENT: There was no public comment.
MOTION: A motion to adopt Res. 26-016 was made by D. Thanars, seconded by G. Baham.
VOTE: Baham: _Yes_ Cooper: _Yes_ Myers: _Yes_ Petrie: _Yes_ Thanars: _Yes_ Thompson: _Yes_ Branton: _Yes_
RESULT: Motion carried. (Unanimous)

C. Reallocation of Capital Funds – RFID Project to Slidell Library Project Soft Costs (Resolution # 26-017 Branton)

T. Collings explained that the Parish has recommended allocating an additional $100,000 to soft cost engineering. To accomplish this, the Board is requesting that the Parish redirect a portion of the funds designated for the RFID project to the Slidell Library project.

M. Cooper requested clarification on the status of the RFID project. C. Branton stated that the Board had voted the previous year to place the project on hold. M. Cooper noted that the resolution would allocate $100,000 from the approximately $900,000 designated for the RFID project, which T. Collings confirmed.

P. Petrie asked whether the allocated funds would be sufficient. T. Collings stated that the amount is currently sufficient. T. Thompson added that the Board can revisit the matter if needed.

PUBLIC COMMENT: There was no public comment.

No motion was made on this agenda item. See the minutes of the LBOC Special Meeting held on July 1, 2026, for subsequent action.

2. Adjournment

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

APPROVAL: ______________________________
Tamarah Myers, Board Secretary/Treasurer