



Livingston Parish Library Board of Control
Regular Meeting, November 14, 2023

Minutes

The Livingston Parish Board of Control met in a public hearing on November 14, 2023. The meeting took place at the Main Branch, located at 20390 Iowa Street, Livingston, LA 70754.

1. Call to Order

Board President, Mr. Ronnie Bencaz called the public hearing to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. Public Hearing

Board President, Mr. Ronnie Bencaz opened up the floor for public comments over the following:

- a. Adjusted Fiscal Year 2023 Operating and Capital Outlay
- b. Proposed Fiscal Year 2024 Operating and Capital Outlay

No comments were made.

3. Close Public Hearing

Mr. Bencaz closed the public hearing at 6:02 p.m.

The Livingston Parish Board of Control met in a regular session on November 14, 2023. The meeting took place at the Main Branch, located at 20390 Iowa Street, Livingston, LA 70754.

1. Call to Order

Board President, Mr. Ronnie Bencaz called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

2. Moment of Silence

Board President, Mr. Ronnie Bencaz called for a moment of silence.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

The pledge of allegiance is said by those in attendance.

4. Roll Call

Present: Ronnie Bencaz, Kathy deGeneres, Melissa Anderson, Larry Davis, Wendi Neal, Francine Smith, Abby Crosby, and Steve Bernard

Absent: Layton Ricks, Ivy Graham (arrived at 6:05 p.m.)

Also Present: Michelle Parrish (Director)

5. Approval of Minutes

Motion to accept minutes as written made by Ms. Melissa Anderson, seconded by Ms. Kathy DeGeneres

Yeas: Bencaz, DeGeneres, Anderson, Davis, Neal, Smith, Crosby, Bernard

Nays:

Absent: Graham (arrived at 6:05p.m.)

Abstain:

The motion carried.

6. Public Comments on Agenda Items

No comments were made.

7. Director's Report

- a. 2023 Book Festival Review
 - i. Ms. Michelle Parrish, Director, spoke on the success of the 2023 Book Festival with its attendance of over 2,200 people.
- b. 2023 Library Usage Statistics
 - i. Ms. Parrish spoke on various statistics regarding library usage for 2023.
- c. 2024 Library Future Goals & Services

- i. Mr. Dustin Cotton, Assistant Director of Branch Services, read a statement listing the future goals of the new library administration.

More detailed information on the Director's Report may be found by listening to the posted audio recording of the meeting.

8. New Business

- a. Discussion of the Livingston Parish Library Millage Renewal
 - i. Presented by David Gray, Public Information Officer
 - ii. Presented by Dustin Cotton, Assistant Director of Branch Services

Mr. Gray presented a PowerPoint presentation on the library's history and the upcoming millage renewal. ***More detailed information may be found by listening to the posted audio recording of the meeting.***

- b. Approve the adjusted FY 2023 Operating and Capital Outlay/Projects Budgets
 - i. Presented by Michelle Parrish, Director

Ms. Parrish spoke on the amended budget and how not much has changed since the September meeting. ***More detailed information may be found by listening to the posted audio recording of the meeting.***

Motion to approve the 2023 Operating and Capital Outlay/Projects budget made by Ms. Fran Smith, seconded by Ms. Kathy DeGeneres

Yeas: Bencaz, Graham, DeGeneres, Anderson, Davis, Neal, Smith, Crosby, Bernard

Nays:

Absent:

Abstain:

The motion carried.

- c. Approve the adjusted FY 2024 Operating and Capital Outlay/Projects Budgets
 - i. Presented by Michelle Parrish, Director

Ms. Parrish spoke on the upcoming budget and increases in health insurance costs for Staff. There was also discussion from board members on various line items listed in the budget. ***More detailed information may be found by listening to the posted audio recording of the meeting.***

Motion to approve the 2024 Operating and Capital Outlay/Projects budget made by Ms. Fran Smith, seconded by Ms. Ivy Graham

Yeas: Bencaz, Graham, DeGeneres, Anderson, Neal, Smith, Bernard

Nays: Davis, Crosby

Absent:

Abstain:

The motion carried.

d. Dedicate funds to Capital Projects

i. Presented by Michelle Parrish, Director

Ms. Parrish spoke on funds never being considered an overage because *“they will be allocated to capital outlay projects that we know will be coming up.”* She goes on to state *“Anything that is left when amended down will go toward the capital outlay projects, so we do not have to go to the voters to ask for a bond. We have been able to pay as we go because of this.”* Any money that is left in the budget will be redirected towards capital outlay.

Motion to dedicate the funds to Capital Projects, if there’s any excess money in the budget made by Ms. Fran Smith, seconded by Ms. Wendi Neal

Yeas: Bencaz, Graham, DeGeneres, Anderson, Davis, Neal, Smith, Crosby, Bernard

Nays:

Absent:

Abstain:

The motion carried.

e. Audit Engagement: Contract Approval

i. Presented by Michelle Parrish, Director

Ms. Parrish asks the board for the rehiring of Ms. Margaret Pritchard with Baxley and Associates as the auditor for the Livingston Parish Library. A contract will be provided at the next board meeting.

Motion to approve the contract for the next audit made by Ms. Fran Smith, seconded by Ms. Ivy Graham

Yeas: Bencaz, Graham, DeGeneres, Anderson, Davis, Neal, Smith, Crosby, Bernard

Nays:

Absent:

Abstain:

The motion carried.

- f. Elect LPL Board of Control Officers for 2024
 - i. Elect Board President

Motion to nominate Mr. Bencaz to be the President again made by Ms. Fran Smith, seconded by Mr. Steve Bernard

A substitute motion was made by Mr. Larry Davis to postpone the election of board officers until after January 8, 2024, until the new council has been sworn into office. There was no second. The motion died.

The original motion was placed back on the floor for voting

Yeas: Bencaz, Graham, DeGeneres, Anderson, Neal, Smith, Crosby, Bernard

Nays:

Absent:

Abstain: Davis

The motion carried.

- ii. Elect Board Vice-President

Motion to nominate Ivy Graham to be the Vice-President made by Ms. Fran Smith, seconded by Ms. Kathy deGeneres

Yeas: Bencaz, Graham, DeGeneres, Anderson, Neal, Smith, Crosby, Bernard

Nays: Davis

Absent:

Abstain:

The motion carried.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Mr. Bencaz at 6:52 p.m.