

**Minutes of the
West Baton Rouge Library Board of Control
Special Meeting
Thursday, August 31, 2023 4:05 – 4:46 PM
830 N. Alexander Ave., Port Allen, LA 70767**

Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance led by Ms. Scarlet Callicoatte

Roll Call by Ms. Martin - Present: Ms. Joanne Bourgeois, President; Ms. Scarlet Callicoatte, Vice-President; Ms. Brenda Morgan, Treasurer; Mr. Carey Denstel, Ex Officio; Ms. Kelson Swancy; Mr. Henry Henderson; Ms. Andrea Kent; and Ms. Laurie Moreau. **Also present** were Tamie Martin, Executive Director; Brad Guerin and Matt Daigrepoint of Fusion Architects; and several library staff. **Ms. Bourgeois declared a quorum present.**

Public Comment

None

Consideration of bids for renovation of 6311 LA-1

Ms. Martin asked the Board to consider the bids for renovation of property at 6311 LA-1, Brusly. She explained that the lowest bid for the project was \$960,000. Ms. Martin stated that they could value engineer some areas of the project in order to lower the cost, but that those items would need to be added at a later date. She said that it would be possible to open without those items, although they were still essential to making the library user-friendly. Matt Daigrepoint detailed the items that could be value engineered, and the savings that could be realized for each. He stated that with the removal of such items as acoustic ceilings, cabinets for the circulation desk, and upgrades to the fire suppression and A/C systems, the project could be reduced to approximately \$605,000. He also stated that this change would necessitate re-bidding the project. Ms. Martin told the Board that the 2023 budget approved by the Parish Council designated \$500,000 for the renovation, and that the legislative appropriation secured by Rep. Edmund Jordan could be viewed as a refund of that amount, or it could be viewed as a supplement to the originally budgeted amount. Brad Guerin stated that at this point in the year, the project would be unlikely to be finished before the end of the fiscal year. Several Board members expressed their opinion that the project would best be accomplished by doing all of it now, rather than removing some aspects and re-bidding. Ms. Bourgeois asked each Board member to state their views. Each affirmed that the best plan would be to complete the project as designed with the current bid.

Motion by Ms. Laurie Moreau to accept the low bid of \$960,000, **seconded by** Ms. Kelson Swancy. Mrs. Bourgeois asked for a roll call vote.

Joanne Bourgeois Yes
Brenda Morgan Yes
Henry Henderson Yes
Andrea Kent Yes
Carey Denstel Yes
Laurie Moreau Yes
Kelson Swancy Yes
Scarlet Callicoatte - Yes

The motion passed unanimously.

Consideration of Budget Amendment

Ms. Martin told the Board that based on Mr. Guerin’s expectation of the progress timeline for the project to renovate 6311 LA-1 South, that a budget amendment would not be needed at this time. She stated that the current budget included enough funds to get the project started and the remainder would likely come in the 2024 fiscal year.

Conclusion – Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled Library Board of Control meeting will be **September 19, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.** Meeting adjourned at 4:46 PM.

/s/_____

Ms. Joanne Bourgeois, President, Library Board of Control

/s/_____

Submitted by Tamie Martin, Director