

St. Tammany Parish Library
Board of Control Meeting
May 19, 2025
St. Tammany Parish Council Chambers
21490 Koop Dr.,
Mandeville, LA 70471
6:30 P.M.

Public Comment: A three (3) minute time limit is established for each member of the public wishing to speak (for or against) an item on the agenda. In the case of a Statement of Concern decision, the person who filed the Statement of Concern is given 5 minutes to speak. **Please note, all comments must pertain to the agenda item announced. There is no general public comment at the end of the meeting.** Any person wishing to comment on a topic not listed on the agenda may do so by e-mailing lboc@stpl.us by 4:00 PM on Monday, May 19, 2025.

AGENDA

Call to order by President and Roll Call by Director

Pledge of Allegiance

1. Approval of the minutes of the meetings of the Library Board of Control that were held on March 24, 2025 and April 28, 2025.
 - Public Comment
 - Discussion
 - Vote
2. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. Financial Reports – April 2025
 - Public Comment
 - Discussion
 - Vote
 - B. Director's Report
 - C. Summer Reading Presentation
 - D. Spring Budget Amendment (Resolution # 25-011 Shaw)
 - Public Comment
 - Discussion
 - Vote
 - E. Designation of Capital Funds – Mandeville Branch Renovation (Resolution # 25-012 Shaw)
(includes presentation from Architect Vaughan Sollberger)
 - Public Comment
 - Discussion
 - Vote
 - F. Millage rate 2025 (Resolution # 25-013 Shaw)
 - Public Comment
 - Discussion
 - Vote
3. Adjournment

**St. Tammany Parish Library
Board of Control Meeting
March 24, 2025
St. Tammany Parish Council Chambers
21490 Koop Dr.,
Mandeville, LA 70471
6:30 P.M.**

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Ann Shaw, President. Kelly LaRocca, Director, called the roll and declared that a quorum was present.

Present: Charles (Chuck) Branton, Pam Georges, Tamarah Myers, Ann Shaw
Absent: Parish President Mike Cooper, Jill Kesler, Dinah Thanars

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

A. Shaw explained the meeting rules and the rules for public comment. Resolutions will not be read aloud since they are posted online. If an off-the-floor item is added to the agenda, the resolution will be read aloud.

C. Branton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Approval of the minutes of the meeting of the Library Board of Control that was held on February 24, 2025. (Shaw/Georges)

C. Branton moved to approve the minutes. It was seconded by P. Georges.

K. LaRocca noted that there were three clerical corrections made to the minutes after the board packet was posted on the website. She stated that the minutes contained in the board member's binders are corrected. The online board packet was also corrected.

Public Comment:

James Prentice – He referenced his question about a shortfall that he inquired about at the previous board meeting. He stated that K. LaRocca's response was an explanation of accrual accounting. He stated that he searched for a better explanation and read it aloud. He thanked K. LaRocca for last month's transparent explanation of the forecasted future expenditures and proposed projects to expand library services and departments. He asked if she plans to give greater explanations of those plans for the next 15 years and looks forward to more transparency.

David Cogle – He stated that he does not believe the minutes accurately reflect what happened at the last meeting in relation to the repeated and vicious personal attacks on C. Branton. He stated that some of the attacks were led by an individual who reportedly led a campaign in 2023 to censor and shut down a private newspaper in Slidell. He stated that this type of extremism is not representative of the Parish. He addressed A. Shaw and stated that he realizes that it is difficult to run the Board, particularly during

contentious issues. He stated that he appreciates the work she is doing in leading the Board. He mentioned the audience disruptions at last month's meeting, noting that no one was removed, and recalled that he was once removed from a board meeting two years ago. He stated that the policy to remove disruptive individuals is completely reasonable and asked that A. Shaw employ that policy at board meetings.

Discussion: There was no Board discussion.

Vote: Prior to public comment, a motion to approve the minutes was made by C. Branton and was seconded by P. Georges.

Roll call vote: Branton: Yes Cooper: Absent Georges: Yes Kesler: Absent
Myers: Yes Thanars: Absent Shaw: Yes

Motion carried.

2. NEW BUSINESS

A. Financial Report – February 2025 (Shaw/LaRocca)

K. LaRocca reported that the library received \$12,130,560.20 in Ad Valorem Revenue in February, which is the majority of what is expected for the year. The library has also received State Revenue Sharing in the amount of \$89,698.26. This is one third of three equal payments that are expected throughout the year. K. LaRocca explained that the revenue figures show as zero on the Statement of Revenues and Expenditures because the library's millage expired in December 2024. The Ad Valorem Revenue line is credited in twelfths for the funds that we receive for 2025. Due to the millage not yet being renewed, the budget line must reflect zero funds. K. LaRocca clarified that the Ad Valorem Revenue received in February 2025 was from the property taxes collected for 2024. K. LaRocca emphasized that there is no Ad Valorem income for 2025 unless the voters choose to continue the millage. The budget percentage for February should be around 16.66%. Revenues are at .93% due to no Ad Valorem Revenue, and expenditures are at 15.84%.

K. LaRocca gave explanations for any lines that were over or under budget. Some lines are expended early or late in the year, depending on when the expenses are due, but they will be in balance by the end of the year. Noteworthy expenditure line explanations are as follows: The Signage line is at 88% due to signage for the library millage renewal. The Voice line is at 20% due to adding the phone for the Mobile Library. The Vehicle Repairs line is at 37% due to needing new tires for some of the library vehicles. The Polaris Maintenance line is at 100% due to paying for the circulation system subscription for the year. The Consultants line is at 62% due to the vehicle consultant for the book hauler van. The Web Design Consultant line is at 88.9% due to paying for the majority of the cost of the website for the year. The Insurance lines vary due to paying for insurance throughout the year. The PC Network line is at 82% due to purchasing the majority of the computers in our five-year replacement cycle this year. The Lease/Purchase Books line is at 96% due to paying for the lease of popular titles for the year.

Public Comment:

Kevin Marino – Mandeville, LA. He stated there has been confusion about accrual accounting, noting that some have stated that it is misleading or incorrect. He suggested for K. LaRocca to explain the basics of accrual accounting and how it works.

Vote: C. Branton moved to approve the February 2025 financial reports. It was seconded by T. Myers.

Roll call vote: Branton: Yes Cooper: Absent Georges: Yes Kesler: Absent
Myers: Yes Thanars: Absent Shaw: Yes

Motion carried.

B. Director's Report

K. LaRocca reported on updates to library facilities and technology. There was underground electric repair work done for parking lot lights at the Slidell Branch. Security camera systems were repaired. A new sewer was installed at the Abita Springs Branch. Parking lot striping was repainted at the Covington and Slidell branches. All computers at the small branches were upgraded to Windows 11. The computers at the Pearl River Branch were replaced.

K. LaRocca reported on marketing, outreach, and professional development efforts. Staff promoted the library on The Lake and The Highway radio stations. Staff offered outreach to the following events and organizations: Mardi Paws, Pontchartrain Elementary's Cultural Arts Day, Krewe du Pooch, Slidell Rotary Club's Magic of Reading Event, Parenting Center, Pearl River COAST Center, and Slidell COAST Center. Mobile Library outreach services were provided to Fitzgerald Methodist Church, St. Benedict's, and the Lacombe, Slidell, Covington, and Pearl River COAST Centers. Staff performed storytime at the following schools: Fontainebleau Children's Academy, Tiny Tumblers, Kidz Klubhouse, Children's College, Charlotte's Web Preschool, Honeycomb Preschool, Helping Hands Preschool, Bayou Woods Elementary's STEM Night, and Brock Elementary. Staff attended the following webinars, conferences, and meetings: Library 2.0 – A.I. and Libraries, Library Makerspaces Research Showcase, Louisiana Student Resources, RootsTech genealogy conference, Leadership Northshore Government and Healthcare days, Innovative Users Group annual meeting, Louisiana Library Association conference, SELA Youth Services meeting, and the St. Tammany Commission on Families meeting.

K. LaRocca thanked board members Jill Kesler, Ann Shaw, and Chuck Branton for joining her in speaking about the library's upcoming millage renewal election at various meetings and events throughout the Parish. She thanked the staff who spoke at meetings while she was attending other meetings, as multiple speaking engagements were taking place simultaneously. In total, there were 47 speaking engagements prior to the board meeting, with five more scheduled before the election.

K. LaRocca reviewed new contracts and contract renewals. The book hauler vehicle has been delivered and the library will be piloting "Lobby Stop" service to COAST Facilities before expanding to assisted living and nursing facilities across the Parish.

K. LaRocca thanked the Friends and Foundation groups for their recent generous donations. The Friends of the Slidell Library provided \$5,000 for 1,000-yard signs to assist with the educational effort for the millage. The St. Tammany Library Foundation and the West St. Tammany Friends of the Library donated

funds for the Musical Garden at the Covington branch. The St. Tammany Library Foundation donated \$25,000 to assist with millage education mailers, branch signage, and 500-yard signs.

The library received and answered one public records request since the last meeting. There is one public records request at the District Attorney's Office for review. The library currently has 110 statements of concern on 107 titles. Since the last meeting, one statement of concern has been filed. Library staff continue to read titles, hold meetings, and make recommendations.

Staff continue working on and implementing the strategic planning goals. A wheelchair accessible picnic table and a sensory calming room was installed at the Covington Branch. The official ribbon cutting for the calming room will be in April. The Mobile Library Lobby Stop service will begin at the end of March or beginning of April. The library received a grant for two outdoor trash cans from Keep Louisiana Beautiful for the South Slidell and Slidell branches. We will host a Love the Boot program, to be part of Keep Louisiana Beautiful's annual clean-up and recycling campaign.

There were three books moved to Adult Fiction due to sexual conduct. There were 25 books reviewed that will remain in Teen Fiction due to not containing sexual conduct.

K. LaRocca gave a millage election update. Staff are reminding patrons of the millage election upon checkout and every library program begins with staff reminding patrons of the millage election. There are banners donated by the Library Foundation advertising the millage at several library branches. A large wooden sign for the Lacombe land has been donated by Covington Printworks. Yard signs donated by the Friends of the Slidell Library and the Library Foundation are available at all branches and there is a yard sign on each book drop. By the day of the election, K. LaRocca, library staff, and board members will have spoken to over 50 different groups to educate the community about the library millage. K. LaRocca thanked the Library Foundation for sponsoring the promotional mailers that were sent out.

K. LaRocca reviewed the 2024 service statistics by percentage, which was inadvertently left out of last month's board packet. She reviewed the February 2025 and year-to-date service statistics. The year-to-date statistics show total circulation (148,129), computer usage (12,969), door count (87,526), wireless inside (13,747), and wireless outside (13,099). There were 1,232 new patrons registered.

K. LaRocca stated that board members have asked her to make a presentation about changes to library policy and procedures since 2022. K. LaRocca presented a slideshow highlighting and explaining all of the changes that are currently in effect. The library created a Tiered Juvenile Card System in November 2022. The card system was used as the model for libraries in then Attorney General Jeff Landry's Protecting Innocence report. The State Legislature modeled their legislation (LA R.S. 25:225) after our system to be used in libraries across the state. In February 2023, the LBOC passed the "Graphic Novel Resolution," which places any graphic novels containing sexual conduct behind the circulation desk, requiring either an Adult library card or an Unrestricted Juvenile library card to check out the materials. A full review of the Children's Collection was conducted in the Fall of 2023, and any material with conduct defined in LA R.S. 25:225 was moved to the Adult Collection. The library launched the Kid's Catalog in December 2023, which only includes the Children's Collection. In April 2024, the LBOC ordered the library to review the Teen Collection (previously titled Young Adult). Items will either be categorized as Teen (no sexual conduct present) or will be moved to the Adult Collection. In the Fall of 2024, monitoring of all areas of the library was increased during after school hours. Monitoring was expanded to all hours of operation in February 2025.

C. Branton asked when the completion of the review of the Teen Collection is expected. K. LaRocca answered that she originally estimated August 2025. She clarified that the remaining books must be reviewed manually, as no online resources are available to determine whether these specific titles contain sexual conduct. There are approximately 2,000 out of 4,000 books left to review.

C. Resolution No. 25-007 Resolution to Amend Rules and Regulations of the St. Tammany Parish Library Board of Control Section 109 Regarding Public Speaking Time (Branton)

C. Branton explained that the resolution aligns with the Parish Council's policy that limits public comment time to one minute for procedural motions, such as those to amend or postpone. The comments must be limited to the specific procedural motion being discussed. He believes this will help the meetings run in an efficient manner and will not stifle discussion. The resolution has been reviewed by the District Attorney's Office. C. Branton moved to adopt resolution 25-007.

E. Couvillon clarified that everything in the resolution is part of a prior resolution adopted by the LBOC in 2022. The resolution codifies existing practices and introduces a one-minute speaking time on procedural motions. She emphasized that when items are up for adoption, the public will always have three minutes to speak on the substantive topic before the Board can adopt any resolution.

Public Comment:

James Prentice – He referenced the statement in the resolution that states that "Speakers shall direct all comments to the Board President or the person conducting the meeting." He stated that all board members have varying backgrounds and skillsets. He would like to direct his questions to the board members who can best answer his questions.

David Cogle – He spoke in support of the resolution, stating that this policy has worked out very well for Parish Council meetings. He mentioned that there will be time to speak on the main issue at a later date when the item is up for adoption again. He noted that this may help keep comments on the topic of the procedural motion, rather than stray off topic.

Roxanne Newman – Mandeville, LA. She spoke in opposition to the resolution, stating that one minute is insufficient time to voice opinions on a matter. She stated that it is not always clear which matters are substantive and which are procedural. She spoke against the requirement that speakers should submit a comment card prior to the beginning of the public comment portion of the agenda item discussion. She explained that sometimes people decide to comment after hearing other public comments. She acknowledged a provision allowing additional speaking time at the discretion of the Chairperson but said it rarely happens. She is concerned that the provision may be applied unfairly based on the content of the comments.

Kevin Marino – Mandeville, LA. He referred to the portion of the policy that requires speakers to direct their questions to the Board President. He stated that many of his comments are directed to board members, the Library Director, or anyone with expertise on the subject matter. He suggested adding a statement allowing the Board President to use their discretion in permitting people to submit a comment card after the agenda item has started. He provided the Board with handouts that list definitions for procedural motions, and suggested that the policy should define these motions. He suggested having a Rules and Regulations committee meeting to discuss concerns before bringing policy changes to a board meeting.

Lisa Rustemeyer – Mandeville, LA. She spoke in opposition to the resolution. She stated that many people spent a lot of time reviewing the resolutions last month, and she feels it was fair for them to have had the opportunity to speak. She asked for clarification on the meaning of substantive and procedural motions. She believes that comment cards should be permitted even after the agenda item has started.

Becky Bohm – Mandeville, LA. She spoke in opposition to the resolution. She stated that one minute is inadequate time to discuss procedural changes. She stated that citizens attend meetings in their free time and should be given ample time to speak. She agrees with previous statements regarding addressing other members of the Board besides the Board President.

Kristen Luchsinger – She spoke in opposition to the resolution. She stated that with the complexities and drama surrounding the library's recent issues, it is important for the Board to hear from the public. She believes that if the Board limits speech on procedural matters, it will set a dangerous precedent, and she is concerned about what might come next.

Ruth Terry Sipos – Abita Springs, LA. She stated that she is concerned about the requirement that speakers should submit a comment card prior to the public comment portion of the agenda item discussion. She explained that hearing others' comments often triggers her to share her own. She does not want her voice silenced because she did not think of a comment ahead of time. She said she misses public comment after the Director's Report because it gave her the chance to praise the Abita Springs Branch.

There was one public comment from an individual who did not wish to speak and they were against shortening the speaking time to one minute.

E. Couvillon addressed some of the comments that were made. She appreciates the feedback and agrees that "procedural" could be better defined. Procedural motions are very limited motions that are procedural under Robert's Rules of Order, such as a motion to table or postpone. She considers a motion to amend as substantive, not procedural. Procedural motions would not affect the Rules and Regulations of the Library Board of Control (LBOC).

E. Couvillon clarified that the Board President is the person who conducts the meeting and can give the floor to someone else to respond to a question. It does not mean that the public cannot ask questions or comment to anyone else seated behind the dais. She reiterated that, under Robert's Rules of Order, it is the Board President who has the authority to grant someone the floor to respond. She explained that this has been part of the Rules and Regulations since 2022, and the Board is now codifying it.

C. Branton stated that he understands that people may not feel the need to speak until they hear someone else's comments, but the Board is trying to conduct an orderly meeting in which people can voice their opinions. He noted that the agenda is published in advance and the board packet is available prior to a meeting. He clarified that the comment card only needs to be submitted before the agenda item is called, not before the meeting starts. C. Branton moved to adopt resolution 25-007.

T. Myers asked for clarification on whether these rules are already in effect and if this is simply turning them into a policy. E. Couvillon clarified that the only addition to policy was the second sentence in Section E, Item 3, which states, "Speaking time shall be limited to one minute for procedural motions."

A. Shaw asked for clarification on whether the Parish Council follows this policy. C. Branton stated that Councilman Corbin suggested this resolution for the Parish Council and E. Couvillon confirmed that it has worked well for the council meetings.

Vote: A motion to adopt resolution 25-007 was made by C. Branton and was seconded by P. Georges.

Roll call vote: Branton: Yes Cooper: Absent Georges: Yes Kesler: Absent
Myers: Yes Thanars: Absent Shaw: Yes

Motion carried.

D. Resolution No. 25-008 Resolution to extend time to allow for procedural due process of undecided statements of concern (Shaw/LaRocca)

K. LaRocca explained that the previous extension that the LBOC granted has expired. She stated that there are 110 Statements of Concern (SOC) on 107 titles. She explained that one reason the Board has been unable to review and make decisions on books is that they were unable to meet for an extended period last year. Additionally, time was needed for the training and onboarding of new board members over the past year. K. LaRocca stated that there are four books that the committee has reviewed and are ready for the Board to read. Copies of the books were available at the meeting for board members to take with them.

K. LaRocca explained that staff discussed and strategized how to best approach reviewing the remaining SOC's. They agreed that prioritizing the review of books behind the circulation desk was important, so they reviewed 62 out of 66 SOC's submitted by Kevin Marino. The four books that have not been reviewed were checked out. The books, committee reports, and book resumes on the 62 titles will soon be ready for the Board to review.

The resolution extends the 45-day time limit for responding to pending SOC's to 120 days from the date of this resolution. This extension includes all pending SOC's and any new SOC that will be received until the next LBOC meeting scheduled for April 28, 2025. K. LaRocca noted a correction that needs to be made on the resolution. It should state that there are 107 remaining titles, not 112. She explained that there were titles that were part of various series that were moved behind the circulation desk, but the individual books did not contain sexual conduct. Those items were moved back to the shelves and the SOC's for those items were closed.

Public Comment:

James Prentice – He views the extension of time as a way to delay things until the millage vote or until the Parish Council finds a reason to remove Jill Kesler from the Board and replace her with a liberal person. He stated that unmanaged, premeditated placement of psychologically damaging reading material for teens could be the reason the library is in this predicament. He noted that the new board has only been allowed to consider two out of 110 books. He spoke of a book that he raised concerns about 25 years ago where a princess was referred to as a “slut.” He stated that was the first time his daughter encountered a derogatory term about women. He stated that his concerns about the book were brushed off at that time, and noted the irony that it has come back to bite the library and jeopardize the millage renewal.

Kevin Marino – He stated that he understands the need for this. He said there are over 100 books in the Graphic Novel Restricted (GNR) category. He stated that restricted means banned from the public eye and is a violation of the First Amendment. He asked the Board to rescind the February 2023 graphic novel resolution and put the books back on the shelves.

Lisa Rustemeyer – She spoke about graphic novels, their format, placement on the shelves, and how the spine looks like any other book on the shelf. She does not think that graphic novels should be behind the desk, especially ones that are in the Adult collection. She understands the need for an extension of time and is in favor of the resolution.

Becky Bohm – She stated that she submitted four SOC's in February 2024. They were for books about puberty and the endocrine system and she thinks it is a travesty that they were moved to the Adult Non-Fiction section. She mentioned the October 2023 resolution regarding the temporary disposition of challenged materials, and noted that it states that an item shall remain classified and shelved in its current location until a decision is made concerning the item's disposition. She showed pictures from the books and stated there is no sexually explicit material in the books, only educational illustrations of the human body.

Vote: A motion to adopt resolution 25-008 was made by T. Myers and was seconded by P. Georges.

Roll call vote: Branton: Yes Cooper: Absent Georges: Yes Kesler: Absent
Myers: Yes Thanars: Absent Shaw: Yes

Motion carried.

E. Resolution No. 25-009 Resolution Regarding Surplus Property (Shaw/LaRocca)

K. LaRocca reported that the I.T. Department has equipment that has been determined outdated and is no longer under warranty. A resolution is required so the items can be sold at the next scheduled Government Surplus auction at ServCorp Auctions in Slidell, Louisiana. A sample resolution and list of items was provided to the Board for consideration.

Vote: A motion to adopt resolution 25-009 was made by P. Georges and was seconded by T. Myers.

Roll call vote: Branton: Yes Cooper: Absent Georges: Yes Kesler: Absent
Myers: Yes Thanars: Absent Shaw: Yes

Motion carried.

3. OLD BUSINESS

F. Resolution No. 25-003 Resolution to Amend Rules and Regulations of the St. Tammany Parish Library Board of Control Section 202 Regarding Privacy Policy (Branton)

C. Branton stated that this policy provision has been legally reviewed by the District Attorney's Office. He stated that there is a difference between a policy and a procedure. The library has a privacy policy in place that needs to be updated. The policy pertains to the confidentiality of patron information and the

dissemination of that information. He explained that the policy makes it clear to everyone that there are legal ways to obtain the information via public records requests, subpoenas, other court orders, or patron authorization. A motion to adopt resolution 25-003 was made by C. Branton and was seconded by T. Myers.

Public Comment:

Joan Simon – Covington, LA. She understands the need for privacy, but regarding SOC's, not providing a name can raise questions about what someone might be hiding. She mentioned that over 150 SOC's were submitted by one person and all of the personal information besides the name was redacted. She believes this is unnecessary and objects to the resolution.

James Prentice – He provided a handout to the Board and stated that books he checked out are now visible to all library staff in his record. He asked if this resolution will prevent the dissemination of any of his SOC's or lists by what he referred to as "some woke librarian SS." He shared that during a previous LBOC meeting, his attendance led someone to call his local librarian before the meeting had adjourned, presumably to interrogate and discover his identity and association with the library. He questioned how the resolution will prevent overreach into his personal record. He asked whether the board would ever leave a child alone in a garage with power tools or in a house with a loaded gun on the coffee table. He questioned why they would let children be unsupervised in the same room as what he referred to as "open book thoughts of transgender groomers, pedophiles, sycophants, and graphic artists."

David Cogle – He explained that when the controversy began in Summer 2022, the library advised concerned parents to submit a Statement of Concern form, but the form lacked a disclaimer noting it could be subject to public records requests or shared externally. He stated that library staff emails obtained via public records requests confirm that staff reached out to the American Library Association (ALA) in July 2022 and reported SOC's to ALA and EveryLibrary. He referenced an email from the ALA which indicated that they recommend libraries use a personal email address when submitting forms. He stated that an automated email from ALA was sent to K. LaRocca confirming that a challenge was sent in October 2022. He asked how many times this happened, who directed it, whether there is proof that personal identifiable information was redacted, whether residents' names remain in the confidential database, and if the SOC's were used in fundraising efforts. He mentioned that he is unsure whether this is still ongoing and stated that subsequent public records requests were unanswered.

Roxanne Newman – She stated that it is interesting that the Accountability Project does not want to hold people accountable for the books they have challenged. She stated that one of the first actions the Nazis took upon rising to power was to burn and banish books that they disagreed with. She clarified that ALA is a professional organization for librarians, similar to how the American Bar Association (ABA) is for lawyers and the American Medical Association (AMA) is for doctors. She is in favor of patron privacy, but strongly objects to hiding the names of those who submit SOC's.

Devin McGee – Madisonville, LA. He stated that there is no reason to share patron information with any public or private entity or individual. He mentioned a Mandeville councilman who was allegedly followed home by an activist after voting against a Pride parade. D. McGee said the same group targeted him after his first LBOC meeting, digging through his social media and questioning whether he lived in the Parish. He mentioned meeting with K. LaRocca, who noted that the library is not involved with the ALA. He spoke about the legal ramifications of sharing private information and stated that the process of discovery will expose those responsible and they will pay.

Kevin Marino – He spoke in opposition to the resolution, stating that it is limited in scope. He thinks it is a bad idea to require Board approval to share SOC's and that the process would take up a lot of time. He stated that there is a trust issue in the Parish, as both sides of the debate do not trust the Board, the Parish Council, or the system. He stated that one way to solve the issue of trust is to put facts in the public eye. Because the SOC's are available online, he learned that less than 10 people were submitting them. He encouraged everyone to read the SOC's that he submitted so they understand the concepts and can engage in healthy discussions.

Becky Bohm – She questioned whether the resolution was created to solve a problem that is not really an issue. She pointed out that, in the past, D. Cogle has spoken about the importance of accountability and transparency, yet this resolution will prevent both. She spoke about the earlier mention of aggressive activists and reminded the Board and audience that she was once attacked by the person who she believes caused this situation, which resulted in a permanent wrist injury. She stated that this needs to stop and the community needs to heal.

Kristen Luchsinger – She asked K. LaRocca if Connie Phillips' name has been given to the ALA. She understands that the library provides the ALA with the information about the book, such as the title and reason for the concern.

K. LaRocca confirmed that the ALA collects information such as the title and author of the book, along with general details about the type of person who submitted the SOC, such as whether they are a parent or an organization. She explained that the first challenges that the library received in 2022 were related to displays, followed by concerns about books. K. LaRocca stated that she did fill out the form, which is why it appears in the public records request that D. Cogle referenced. She later clarified that the form submission was regarding the first two challenged books.

K. LaRocca explained that the reason there were no additional findings from the public records request was because there were no further results to disclose, not because she used a personal email address. She emphasized that one cannot prove a negative and maintained that it simply did not happen. She explained that the library had received 150 SOC's in a short span of time and emphasized that she had no responsibility to the ALA, nor the time to send the information to them. K. LaRocca explained that we started receiving public records requests for the SOC's from multiple people. After consulting with legal counsel, it was decided to redact the documents and publish them on the website for the public to view. She added that there is a spreadsheet on the website containing hyperlinks to each SOC. The person's name is currently visible on the SOC, but the person's home address, phone number, email address, and any other personal information is redacted.

K. Luchsinger noted that it is now on record that there is no need for anyone to worry about their private information being leaked out of St. Tammany Parish. She asked C. Branton to clarify his intentions regarding the listing of the SOC's on the website and whether the names would be redacted. C. Branton said he will address questions after public comment. K. Luchsinger thanked the library for making the SOC's available online, which revealed that some objections were just against the LGBTQ community. K. Luchsinger clarified to D. McGee that she was the person at the Mandeville Council meeting he mentioned earlier, but none of the events he described happened. She stated that she said hello to the councilman, then she and her husband left the meeting and went home.

Lisa Rustemeyer – She is concerned that redacting the names could leave the system open to abuse. She stated that this happened when 150 complaints were made by one person and they did not show up to defend the books. She emphasized how much time and money was wasted. She noted that one complainant was from outside this Parish. She stated that without the SOC's being made available, she would not have known what was going on. She trusts the library with her privacy.

Ruth Terry Sipos – She spoke in opposition to the resolution. She stated that many concerns have been raised for the Board to consider. She suggested that thinking about it another month might make a difference.

Jamie Segura – Covington, LA. She stated that LA R.S. 44:32 states that the public has a right to inspect all public records. She said that redactions are strictly limited. She supports protecting patron privacy, but believes that if someone infringes upon her right to read a book, their name should be made public. She believes this is an unnecessary measure to hide the actions of the mostly conservative LBOC, which is in conflict with the U.S. Constitution. She continued to speak about having access to all books and that parents should monitor what their children read. There was disruption from the audience.

There were five public comments from individuals who did not wish to speak and they were not in favor of the resolution.

C. Branton stated that the resolution was reviewed by District Attorney Collin Sims and Assistant District Attorney Emily Couvillon. He spoke of today's society and the role of social media, highlighting how some individuals use it to post nasty comments online. He stated that library staff did send information to the ALA, who then suggested using a personal email address to keep the submission hidden. He objects to the library using taxpayer time and dollars compiling and sending information to an organization that does not govern us and whose stated goals, he believes, do not align with the majority of the state. He reiterated that policies matter and this is a step towards putting policies in place to hold people accountable. He addressed K. Marino's concern about the ability to view the SOC's. He said this does not restrict the ability to submit a public records request for a SOC containing the patron's name. He referenced the public records law (LA R.S. 44:1). C. Branton restated his motion to adopt resolution 25-003.

E. Couvillon explained that the SOC's are currently on the website with all personal information redacted except for the patron's name. She explained that the SOC's were posted on the website due to a high volume of public records requests, all of which she is responsible for reviewing. She explained that, since she is only one person and this task represents just a small part of her overall job duties, it was decided to publish the records online with redactions. If this resolution passes, they will be removed from the website and will be available through public records requests.

A. Shaw questioned if that would place undue burden on the staff. K. LaRocca clarified that all of them are already redacted and just need the names redacted. She asked if they could leave the spreadsheet on the website, as it does not contain any patron information. T. DiMaggio confirmed that the spreadsheet only contains the title, author, shelf locations, and circulation statistics. K. LaRocca clarified that the spreadsheet currently has hyperlinks that lead to the SOC document. C. Branton said that he does not object to leaving the spreadsheet online as long as it does not contain the patron's name. He reiterated that the public can file a public records request to access the SOC's containing the patron's name.

The Board, along with E. Couvillon and K. LaRocca, discussed the technical details and options to ensure both patron privacy and the public's ability to view the SOC's. Following this discussion, E. Couvillon suggested amending the resolution to state that the Statement of Concern (SOC), which outlines the reasons for the challenge, will remain accessible via hyperlink, with the patron's name and other personal information redacted.

C. Branton questioned the need to amend the resolution if the spreadsheet is remaining on the website and does not contain patron names. T. DiMaggio clarified that the spreadsheet currently does not include the reason for each concern and asked whether the Board would like her to add that information. C. Branton was in favor of doing so, as it would not include personally identifiable information.

There were questions from the public, prompting A. Shaw to open the floor to additional public comment.

Roxanne Newman – She asked how the public is supposed to prepare to address what the concern is if the hyperlinks to the SOC's are removed. C. Branton stated that the reason for the concern can be included on the spreadsheet. R. Newman suggested just including the SOC with the name redacted, since everything but the name would be added to the spreadsheet.

T. DiMaggio reminded the Board that the SOC is included in the board packet when the SOC comes up for Board review. E. Couvillon clarified that is addressed in another section of the Rules and Regulations of the LBOC and is separate from what is being addressed here.

Joan Simon – She stated that when the book comes up for Board review, the patron's name will be made public, and she questioned the need for this resolution, describing it as nonsense.

Kristen Luchsinger – She asked if this only pertains to library patrons. E. Couvillon clarified that only library patrons can submit a SOC, under the current policy. K. Luchsinger stated that Connie Phillips did not have a library card when she submitted her SOC's. E. Couvillon explained that the policy was revised after LA R.S. 25:225 was enacted into law.

Lisa Rustemeyer – She believes that responding to multiple public records requests for the SOC's would be a strain on the library. She suggested keeping the hyperlink to the SOC with the name redacted. She suggested using a coding system to identify multiple SOC's submitted by the same person.

David Cogle – He stated that the reporting form for the ALA asked for documents for their confidential database. He stated that the issue is that the burden is on the library to show that the redactions were made. He noted that the ALA skipped the legal step of submitting a public records request and was given the information immediately. He clarified that is what this needs to address.

Kevin Marino – He suggested taking the resolution back to the drawing board. He questioned why some are so obsessed with the ALA. He noted that the Library Director sent two out of hundreds of SOC's to them. He emphasized the value of being able to read the reasons a patron submitted a SOC, as it helps with understanding their point of view and intentions - such as wanting the book removed from the library.

C. Branton stated that, based on what he is hearing, we need to simply redact the patron's names from the SOC's. To clarify, he stated that the name and other personally identifiable information must be redacted; however, any individual may submit a public records request for the SOC containing the patron's unredacted name. He further clarified that this resolution does not address what is contained in the board packet, which will eventually be published and contain the patron's name.

A. Shaw asked for clarification that the spreadsheet would remain, along with hyperlinks to the SOC's, with the patron's name redacted. She noted that this helps maintain accountability and transparency, while keeping patron information private. A. Shaw asked E. Couvillon if the Board needs to amend the resolution. E. Couvillon recommended leaving the language as is and adding the following phrase to the end of Part C: "and except that Library Administration shall be allowed to publish statements of concern on the St. Tammany Parish website after redaction of all personally identifiable information."

Vote: A motion to amend resolution 25-003 was made by C. Branton and was seconded by P. Georges.

Roll call vote: Branton: Yes Cooper: Absent Georges: Yes Kesler: Absent
Myers: Yes Thanars: Absent Shaw: Yes

Motion carried.

Vote: A motion to adopt resolution 25-003 as amended was made by C. Branton and was seconded by T. Myers.

Roll call vote: Branton: Yes Cooper: Absent Georges: Yes Kesler: Absent
Myers: Yes Thanars: Absent Shaw: Yes

Motion carried.

G. Election to fill vacancy of board position - Vice President (Shaw)

T. Myers moved to nominate C. Branton for Vice President. She noted how he has attended over a dozen meetings to promote the millage renewal. It was seconded by P. Georges.

Public Comment:

Joan Simon – She stated that it is unfortunate that only four board members were present to vote at the meeting. She appreciates C. Branton's service, but would have preferred someone who has been serving longer to take on this position. She suggested postponing the vote until all seven board members are present.

David Cougle – He stated that last month C. Branton was the only member who wanted to serve as Vice President. He spoke about the demands of a small, yet militant group with an active Facebook page, emphasizing that they do not reflect the views of the vast majority of the Parish. He stated that the group attacked LBOC members due to their religious views, attacked their spouses, mocked the Christian faith, attacked veterans with disabilities, and attacked a female Parish Councilmember in which someone called her a derogatory term. He stated that the Board should not concede to this group's demands.

Kevin Marino – He noted that only four out of seven board members were present and suggested postponing the vote until the full Board is present.

Lisa Rustemeyer – She is in favor of a postponement. She asked why D. Cougle was allowed to call the group names during a discussion on the topic of electing a Vice President. She stated that D. Cougle is very divisive and is very connected to C. Branton, which concerns her. She suggested that P. Georges would be better qualified.

Kathleen Wiley – She does not agree with postponing the vote. She supports C. Branton serving as Vice President, highlighting his Master’s degree and extensive experience. She spoke out about people making ugly digs at others and called for the hate to stop, quoting the saying “ban hate.” She reiterated C. Branton’s experience, qualifications, and considers him a true servant.

Vote: T. Myers moved to elect Charles (Chuck) Branton as Vice President. It was seconded by P. Georges.

Roll call vote: Branton: Yes Cooper: Absent Georges: Yes Kesler: Absent
Myers: Yes Thanars: Absent Shaw: Yes

Motion carried.

H. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by C. Branton and was seconded by P. Georges. All were in favor, none were opposed, and none were absent. Motion carried.

Ann Shaw, Board President

**St. Tammany Parish Library
Board of Control Meeting
April 28, 2025
St. Tammany Parish Council Chambers
21490 Koop Dr.,
Mandeville, LA 70471
6:30 P.M.**

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Ann Shaw, President. Kelly LaRocca, Director, called the roll and declared that a quorum was present.

PRESENT (6): Charles (Chuck) Branton, Councilman Jeff Corbin (designated by Parish President Mike Cooper to serve in his stead), Jill Kesler, Tamarah Myers, Ann Shaw, Dinah Thanars

ABSENT (0): None

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

T. Myers led the Pledge of Allegiance.

A. Shaw acknowledged the successful renewal of the library's millage, which secures funding for the next 15 years. She expressed gratitude to the voters of St. Tammany Parish, as well as Library Administration, staff, and Library Board of Control (LBOC) for their efforts in educating the community.

A. Shaw explained the meeting rules and the rules for public comment. A three-minute time limit is established for each member of the public wishing to speak (for or against) an item on the Agenda. Comments on procedural motions are limited to one minute. In the case of a Statement of Concern (SOC) decision, the person who filed the Statement of Concern is given five minutes to speak.

1. Recognition and thanks for service to the Library Board of Control – Rev. Robert Belknap, Carmen Butler, Pam Georges, Carole Gillio, William McHugh, Anthony Parr, Rebecca Taylor

A. Shaw recognized the service and contributions of past board members. In appreciation of their dedication, each was presented with a commemorative plaque. Each former board member shared brief remarks.

Rev. Robert Belknap expressed that it was an honor to serve on the Board and emphasized the importance of public service. He extended his gratitude to K. LaRocca for her time and effort, and remarked that the library system is among the best in the country. He complimented the Genealogy section at the Covington Branch.

Carmen Butler expressed gratitude to God for the opportunity to serve. She shared that she was blessed with parents who led by example. She thanked former Parish Council member T.J. Smith, Jr. for appointing her to the LBOC. She thanked K. LaRocca, staff, and the LBOC for their professionalism, hard work, love, and kindness.

Pam Georges expressed gratitude for her time on the Board, noting that touring the library branches opened her eyes to all of the valuable services and programs offered, especially in rural areas. She hopes that both sides of recent issues can work together. She stated that A. Shaw has been a wonderful driving force on the Board, and described K. LaRocca as absolutely incredible.

T. Myers accepted Carole Gillio's plaque on her behalf. A. Shaw stated that C. Gillio was unable to attend, but hopes to serve again in the future.

Bill McHugh stated that it was an honor to serve on the Board and a privilege to cover the meetings during his time writing for *The St. Tammany Farmer*. He praised the library for its institutional integrity. He commended K. LaRocca for her skills in managing the library amidst tremendous challenges, and he hopes this will be duly recognized during her annual evaluation. He urged the Board to set aside their personal beliefs to ensure that the library remains an unbiased, apolitical, and unrestricted resource.

Anthony Parr expressed gratitude for the recognition of his service on the Board. He spoke of working alongside library staff to ensure that the library remains a sanctuary of learning and community connection. He emphasized that diversity strengthens us and stories help bridge divides. He accepts this honor as a symbol of what he and others have accomplished together.

Rebecca Taylor reflected on her 25 years as a librarian and 16 years on the Board, describing the experience as enjoyable, fulfilling, challenging, and at times painful. She acknowledged how exceptional the St. Tammany Parish Library system is today. She read the library's mission and vision statements, reminding the Board of their duty to remain politically neutral and to act in the best interest of the library. She praised the Library Director and the Assistant Directors for their professionalism, years of experience, and dedication to the betterment of the library.

2. Approval of the minutes of the meeting of the Library Board of Control meeting that was held on March 24th, 2025

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Sonnet Ireland – Slidell, LA. She complimented the thoroughness of the minutes. She referenced D. Cogle's mention of C. Branton's qualifications at the last meeting and appreciated that he recognized the importance of having a Master's in Library and Information Science (MLIS) and relevant experience. She noted that the three individuals who manage the library all hold an MLIS and have years of experience. She complimented K. LaRocca's leadership and millage renewal efforts, noting that some of the speaking engagements K. LaRocca attended included individuals who actively wished her harm.

A. Shaw reminded S. Ireland that her comments must be related to edits or corrections to the minutes. J. Bolner stated that it is appropriate to tailor comments to the subject on the agenda, which is whether or not the minutes accurately reflect what took place at the prior meeting. S. Ireland asked why D. Cogle was not stopped from speaking at the last meeting when he spoke about a situation with a newspaper and believes that everyone should be held to the same standards.

Becky Bohm – Mandeville, LA. She referenced a comment that C. Branton made at the last meeting regarding posting nasty comments on social media. She agreed with him and showed a poster and t-shirt containing recent negative social media posts aimed at her and others who attend the LBOC

meetings. C. Branton raised a Point of Order, stating that B. Bohm's comments were not related to corrections to the minutes. A. Shaw concurred, restored order, and asked for discussion from the Board.

DISCUSSION: There were no suggested corrections to the minutes.

MOTION #1: J. Corbin moved to approve the minutes of the March 24, 2025, LBOC meeting. It was seconded by C. Branton.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Branton: Yes Corbin: Abstained Kesler: No Myers: Yes Thanars: Abstained Shaw: Yes

RESULT: Motion failed due to lack of a majority of affirmative votes. (Yes – 3 | No – 1 | Abstained – 2)

MOTION #2: C. Branton moved to postpone approval of the minutes until the next board meeting. It was seconded by J. Kesler. A. Shaw asked if there were any discrepancies in the minutes that need to be corrected. J. Kesler answered yes.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Branton: Yes Corbin: Yes Kesler: Yes Myers: Yes Thanars: Yes Shaw: Yes

RESULT: Motion to postpone carried. (Unanimous 6-0)

3. NEW BUSINESS

A. Financial Report – March 2025

K. LaRocca reported that no additional Ad Valorem Revenue or State Revenue Sharing has been received since February. Two more payments of State Revenue Sharing are expected before the end of the year. K. LaRocca noted that the Ad Valorem Tax is restored in this report, as the millage was renewed and funds will be collected for 2025. Ad Valorem Revenue and State Revenue Sharing funds are credited to us in twelfths on the report, though all expected Ad Valorem Revenue has been received.

J. Kesler asked where the Donations came from. K. LaRocca answered the Friends of the Library and the Library Foundation donated money for the musical flowers at the Covington Branch, signs, mailers, and banners for the millage renewal campaign.

K. LaRocca reviewed the revenues and expenditures. The budget percentage for this point in the year should be 25%. Revenues are at 25.18% and expenditures are at 23.36%. K. LaRocca gave explanations for any lines that were over or under 25%. Some lines are expended early or late in the year, depending on when the expenses are due, but they will be in balance by the end of the year. Noteworthy expenditure line explanations are as follows: Workers Compensation Expense is at 42.79% due to paying the first portion of the year. The Utilities-Gas line is at 43.03% due to cold weather in the early part of the year. Vehicle Repairs is at 37.49% due to purchasing new tires for one of the vehicles. The Plumbing, Heating, and A/C line is at 51.73% due to paying for the HVAC annual contracts for the Madisonville, Covington, and Slidell branches. The Consultants line is at 64% due to the book hauler vehicle consultant and for millage renewal consulting with Sam Caruso.

C. Branton asked if Sam Caruso is paid in full and K. LaRocca confirmed that is correct. The Web Design Consultant line is at 89.33% due to paying for the majority of our website maintenance for the year. The

Lease/Purchase Books line is at 96.19% due to paying for the leased books for the year. Half of the Juvenile Reference books have been purchased for the year. The Microfilm line has been expended for the year. The outreach vehicle has been purchased.

C. Branton asked if the vehicle is in use. K. LaRocca answered yes and explained that it is for the Mobile Library Branch. She would like to bring the vehicle to a board meeting for the Board to view. J. Kesler asked if a map of where the vehicle is visiting will be posted. K. LaRocca clarified that it is not a bookmobile for patrons to browse materials, but an outreach vehicle that serves COAST and nursing facilities. She also mentioned the Books By Mail service that the Mobile Library provides. T. Myers asked how facilities will access and request Mobile Library services. K. LaRocca explained that facilities will have the option to request our services and clarified that lobby stop service involves bringing carts of books into a facility's lobby to create a pop-up-style library. T. DiMaggio added that the Mobile Library Branch Manager will be proactively calling various facilities to offer services. J. Kesler asked how will staff know what topics and types of books to stock on the truck. K. LaRocca explained that COAST clients were surveyed about what books, movies, and music they are interested in borrowing. If a desired book is not available on the truck, patrons can always request it, and staff will place a hold on the item to ensure it is delivered to them.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Sonnet Ireland – She asked if there was an increase in vehicle insurance due to the new Mobile Library vehicle. K. LaRocca answered that she does not have that information but will provide it at the next meeting. S. Ireland asked about the cost of being on the election ballot. K. LaRocca explained that while \$250,000 was budgeted for that purpose, the final cost is expected to be lower since we were not the only item on the ballot. S. Ireland referenced the New Adult section and asked if there will eventually be an Elder Adult section. K. LaRocca answered no. S. Ireland asked if the library receives grants and how will they pay for certain services since the State Library can no longer pay for grants.

K. LaRocca stated that we have received grants from the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities (LEH) for adult programs, and we have received grants for technology. One area that could be affected is the costs associated with Interlibrary Loans, which currently incur no shipping costs due to use of the state route delivery system. Another area that could be impacted is database access, as some databases are currently provided at no cost through the State Library. K. LaRocca explained that we would need to look at the usage statistics to determine which databases to keep.

DISCUSSION: There was no additional Board discussion.

MOTION: T. Myers moved to approve the March 2025 Financial Report. It was seconded by D. Thanars.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Branton: Yes Corbin: Yes Kesler: Yes Myers: Yes Thanars: Yes Shaw: Yes

RESULT: Motion to approve carried. (Unanimous 6-0)

B. Director's Report

K. LaRocca reported that construction is expected to begin on the elevator at the Technical Services building in the next couple of weeks. For National Library Week, the library will hold its Food for Fines

promotion, allowing patrons to donate non-perishable items to pay for overdue fines at a rate of \$1 per item.

Marketing and Outreach – Staff promoted the library on The Lake and The Highway Radio stations. Staff provided outreach to the American Legion Post 16, GenFest 2025, Bayou Lacombe Republican Women’s Luncheon, Bayou Lacombe Museum Earth Day, “Fairy Tale Day” at Whispering Forest, Our Lady of Lourdes Easter event, “Ready, Start, Grow” event, Pinwheel Walk, and the Special Needs Expo. Staff performed storytime at A-Z Preschool, Mayfield Elementary School, Lacombe Mandeville Headstart, Chahta-Ima Elementary, and Apple Tree Preschool & Learning Center.

Professional Development – Staff attended Computers in Libraries, A.I.-Driven Networking, Security, and Data Summit, Leadership Northshore Environmental Day, Leadership Northshore Judicial System Day, Faye B. Kaigler Children’s Book Festival, and a “Confidence in the Workplace” webinar.

The Mobile Library is piloting the "Lobby Stop" service to COAST facilities before expanding to assisted living and nursing facilities across the parish. The Friends of the Slidell Library held a tree planting in conjunction with Keep Slidell Beautiful and broke ground on the reading garden at the Slidell Branch. The St. Tammany Library Foundation held their annual Distinguished Speaker Series event on April 6th.

K. LaRocca reported on contract renewals. The library received six new public records requests since the last board meeting. Four were answered, one has been turned over to the District Attorney’s Office, and one is being collected. Two new statements of concern were filed, bringing the total to 112 SOC’s on 109 titles.

Strategic Planning Update – T. DiMaggio reported that the Sensory Calming room is set up and open to the public at the Covington Branch. She described the features of the room. J. Corbin asked whether staff will be monitoring the room’s usage to assess its return on investment, given that it is a valuable space. T. DiMaggio answered yes, the Reference Librarian and staff monitor the area. She clarified that the calming room will be piloted for one year, after which it can revert to a study room if deemed unnecessary.

J. Corbin was granted a moment of personal privilege to express concern about a sign displayed by an audience member that, in his view, personally attacked him by name. He questioned its permissibility and requested its removal, but after discussion, it appeared that no further action was taken. The meeting resumed with A. Shaw calling it back to order and K. LaRocca proceeding with the Director’s Report.

K. LaRocca gave an update on the transition of materials. Two books were moved to Adult Fiction due to sexual conduct, and 89 books will remain in Teen Fiction due to not containing sexual conduct. K. LaRocca reviewed the March 2025 and year-to-date service statistics. She noted that the original packet contained incorrect statistics for March, but has since been corrected.

C. Capital Projects Report

K. LaRocca gave a report on upcoming capital projects. She reviewed the capital projects spreadsheet and gave a summary of each project. The following projects were completed or are currently under construction for 2025: Covington Branch exterior renovations, Technology upgrade (people counters),

and the elevator installation at the Technical Services building will begin soon. The following projects remain on the capital projects list: Mandeville renovation, technology upgrade (RFID – Radio Frequency Identification), Lacombe replacement, Slidell expansion/renovation/roof replacement. K. LaRocca reviewed the details of remaining projects.

Mandeville Branch renovation – Originally budgeted at \$200,000 in 2022, planned improvements include carpet, data lines, restrooms, and ADA front entrance upgrades. After architectural review, additional funds are needed, with the lowest bid at \$290,000. Carpet replacement may be deferred, but entrance flooding remains a priority with no cost-saving options for that task. K. LaRocca noted that \$49,000 in unallocated funds from higher 2024 interest income may help cover costs, and the Board may consider reallocating unused millage election funds once the final invoice is received from the Secretary of State.

Technology upgrade (RFID) – Originally slated for 2020 but was delayed due to COVID. The Board approved the project in February 2022 and it was later added to the Parish Capital Budget. Due to the timing and uncertainty of the outcome of the millage renewal election, this project was put on hold but can now move forward. Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) enhances library operations by using embedded tags inside books and other materials for item identification, check in/out status, security, and improves staff accuracy and efficiency. Streamlining the materials flow process will reduce routine tasks, allowing staff to focus more on direct patron service and will support redirecting staff to other initiatives, such as the Mobile Library. RFID provides an easy self-service option, reducing wait times during busy periods and offering flexibility in areas like the Children's section after storytime. The estimated cost is \$945,201.80, including contingency funds to offset inflation. K. LaRocca noted cost-saving adjustments, such as reducing workstation pads, and confirmed the only recurring cost is an annual licensing fee that can be absorbed in the library's operations budget. She also emphasized the importance of replacing the aging electromagnetic security gates for improved item protection and to ensure the integrity of the library's tiered card system. The original RFID report was included in the Board packet.

J. Kesler asked if the RFID tag is traceable and if it has the capability to track a person to their home. K. LaRocca answered no, it is only active while inside the library. Once the item is checked out and/or leaves the library through the security gates, it is inactive.

C. Branton asked if the previous Board has already approved the project. K. LaRocca answered yes, it was approved by the Board and Parish Council and was added to the Capital Budget. C. Branton expressed concern that the cost figures are three years old and asked if we will get updated numbers. K. LaRocca explained that it was anticipated that it would take a while for the project to happen, so money for contingency was included in the budget. C. Branton asked if it is still accurate that the licensing fee will be the only recurring cost, since the information is from 2022. K. LaRocca clarified that the bids will be for both the equipment and licensing.

C. Branton asked about the extent of theft in the library, expressing concern about the return on investment given the project's potential cost of over \$1 million. He asked if the system will lead to savings in salaries. K. LaRocca explained that it is not currently possible to know how much has been taken from the library, but the new RFID system will be capable of ensuring a full inventory check. She stated that the Genealogical Society has expressed concerns about the genealogy collection, as it contains irreplaceable items. She noted that some challenged items were stolen from the library and

photos of them were posted online. She noted that RFID technology has been in use for over 20 years and that the library is somewhat behind, still using barcodes. Other Louisiana systems—including Livingston Parish Library, New Orleans Public Library, Jefferson Parish Library, Lafayette Public Library, and Ouachita Parish Public Library—have already upgraded. Regarding salaries, K. LaRocca stated that no staff reductions are planned, as staff will be reassigned to support expanding services such as the Mobile Library, the new Lacombe Branch, and the expanded Slidell Branch.

C. Branton asked if Carson Block Consulting is still our consultant. K. LaRocca stated that she can inquire about their continued services. C. Branton expressed concern that the consultant's report, dated Summer 2020, is outdated and suggested obtaining an updated version to support informed decision-making. K. LaRocca noted that the remaining portion of the consultant's contract is to review bids and confirmed the consultant was paid \$7,000 in full. C. Branton added that updating the report would be a worthwhile use of funds, as he is uncomfortable making decisions based on outdated information. K. LaRocca stated that she would be happy to speak with Carson Block again regarding an updated report. C. Branton suggested adding the topic to a future meeting agenda to allow time to gather more accurate numbers and assess current possibilities in light of technological changes since the original report.

J. Kesler asked about the ongoing quality control and upkeep of the system. K. LaRocca explained that the RFID tags would go inside each new book instead of a barcode. The gates and checkout pads would need to be maintained. A. Shaw asked for clarification on whether this project is in the pipeline with the Parish. K. LaRocca answered yes, but noted that she can speak to the Parish about putting a hold on the project if the Board prefers. "She explained that if the Board chooses not to proceed with the project, a resolution to remove it from the Capital Budget would be required, along with approval from the Parish Council.

C. Branton stated that he would like to postpone the implementation of the RFID project pending receipt of current financial information, which should include not only the project cost, but also tangential costs related to the project. He is not in favor of moving forward with the project as it presently stands and thinks it could be a potential misuse of taxpayer dollars. He requested that the RFID project be tabled pending receipt of the updated information and stated that he was prepared to make a motion if needed.

K. LaRocca stated that she will speak to Carson Block about refreshing the numbers. C. Branton emphasized that we also need to know what can be done now that was not included in the 2020 report and 2022 update. He explained that the cost of technology does not always increase; sometimes it decreases. He requested that K. LaRocca provide information to justify the expenditure, including how the project will benefit patrons and staff, details on any cost savings, the estimated amounts, and the timeline for when those savings would be realized. K. LaRocca agreed to provide the requested information.

Lacombe Library Replacement – The current Lacombe Branch, a 1,500 sq. ft. sheet metal building with rust damage, is slated for replacement. A centrally located parcel on Hwy 190, near local schools and the Tammany Trace, was purchased in 2024 to accommodate a new 6,000–7,000 sq. ft. facility with outdoor space. The branch was the most visited small branch in 2024. \$300,000 has been budgeted for architectural and design services, with remaining funds applied to construction. The architect, to be selected by the Parish President, will gather input from the community, staff, and Board. The allocation does not cover total project costs.

C. Branton asked A. Shaw if he could make a motion at the conclusion of the report. A. Shaw informed him that one item remained.

Slidell Branch Addition – The Slidell Branch at 555 Robert Blvd., the system’s most heavily used branch, is a 22,000 sq. ft. facility built in 1989 with future expansion in mind. Plans include adding 4,000–6,000 sq. ft., depending on the cost of a needed roof replacement due to ongoing leaks. Interior updates will include carpeting, paint, and space reorganization. Potential additions include study rooms, a storytime room, or maker space—features found in other branches. The Parish will select an architect to address the roof and design the expansion. \$300,000 has been budgeted for architectural and design services, with surplus to go toward construction. This amount does not cover the full project cost. The architect will also revisit input gathered in 2022 from the community, staff, and Board.

MOTION: C. Branton moved to postpone the RFID project pending an updated consultant report with current accurate data. It was seconded by J. Corbin.

C. Branton asked K. LaRocca for specific details on potential staffing changes, including which staff can be redirected to other roles and which tasks can be handled by technology. He reiterated his concern about whether there will be a return on investment to justify a project that he anticipates will be over \$1 million. He requested that the Parish be notified that the Board does not wish to proceed at this time and that the project can be revisited at a future meeting once a new report is received.

A. Shaw asked if there will be additional charges for retaining Carson Block’s services again and if Board approval will be required. K. LaRocca explained that while there will be additional charges, the total will remain below the threshold that necessitates Board approval. She added that there are enough funds in the Consultants line to cover the cost. C. Branton asked where the consultant is located and K. LaRocca answered Colorado.

A. Shaw summarized that the project is currently on track to proceed with the bidding process; however, C. Branton is requesting that the Parish not move forward until more accurate information is received. K. LaRocca stated that she can call the Parish to facilitate that request.

K. LaRocca asked for clarification on whether the Board is allowed to vote on something if the vote was not listed on the agenda. C. Branton stated that the Board can do so if the vote is unanimous. A. Shaw asked if there was unanimous agreement to add the item to the agenda and asked for clarification on whether the Board needed to vote on that motion first. C. Branton confirmed that as correct.

Although the procedure was discussed, no formal motion was made, no second was offered, and no vote was taken to add the item as an off-the-floor amendment.

A member of the audience asked if there must be a one-minute public comment period due to the procedural motion. J. Bolner clarified that public comment should be limited to the topic of adding the item to the agenda as an off-the floor amendment, not the substance of C. Branton’s proposal.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Kevin Marino – Mandeville, LA. He advised the Board against voting yes, stating that the topic should not be added as an off-the-floor item due to an already full agenda. He stated that the project has been thoroughly vetted and does not need to be reviewed.

Sonnet Ireland – She opposed changing the agenda, stating that the project has been thoroughly researched and that the bidding process will provide the necessary pricing information. She noted that the most reasonable bid will be chosen anyway. She does not feel that paying for a consultant again is a good use of taxpayer money.

Prior to proceeding with the roll call vote, A. Shaw revisited the motion previously made by C. Branton and requested clarification on whether it had been seconded. It was confirmed that J. Corbin seconded the motion. A. Shaw clarified that the motion and second was for the Board to put a hold on the RFID project. C. Branton further clarified that the Library Director will follow up with Carson Block Consulting to obtain updated figures and report to the Board with cost information, including potential offsets through staffing adjustments or tasks that the RFID system can handle.

ROLL CALL VOTE: A roll call vote was conducted based on the motion to postpone the RFID project, made by C. Branton and seconded by J. Corbin.

Branton: Yes Corbin: Yes Kesler: Yes Myers: Yes Thanars: Yes Shaw: No

RESULT: Motion to postpone the RFID project carried. (Yes – 5 | No – 1)

D. Resolution No. 25-010 Regarding Request for Attorney General’s Opinion (Branton)

C. Branton explained that LA R.S. 25:225, the statute regarding sexually explicit materials, is referenced often in board meetings. The statute says that the legislative intent is to restrict access to sexually explicit materials to minors. He noted that the statute defines several terms, but it does not define the word “access.” He is asking the Board to approve a resolution to submit a request for a legal opinion from the Louisiana Attorney General (AG) for guidance on the interpretation of the term “access” as used in LA R.S. 25:225. He acknowledged that former AG and current Governor Jeff Landry had issued guidance for libraries, which was provided to the State Library in September 2023. He stated that the guidance is not a formal legal AG opinion, but rather consists of answers to questions proposed to the AG’s office. He stated that the answers do not address the issue. He referred to Question 5 in the guidance, which asks “Does LA R.S. 25:225 require that a library restrict a minor’s access to library materials prior to check out?” The response provided was “No,” but C. Branton expressed the view that “access” means more than just checking out materials. He gave an example of a small child in the library who sits and reads a book for two to three hours without checking it out, then leaves. He questioned whether one could reasonably say the child did not have “access” to the book.

C. Branton stated that, in his opinion as a lawyer, the Board needs guidance on this matter and should seek a formal opinion from the AG. He reminded those who might object to the resolution that, one year ago, the Parish Council restructured the Library Board based on AG opinions. He asked the Board to formally adopt the resolution to request a legal opinion from the Louisiana AG regarding the term “access” in LA R.S. 25:225.

MOTION #1: A motion was made by C. Branton and was seconded by J. Kesler to adopt Resolution 25-010.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Devin McGee – He stated that clear definitions are critical and spoke in favor of the resolution. He used an example of cigarettes only being sold from behind the counter so that they are not accessible to minors. He stated that Jeff Corbin has slandered his constituents. A. Shaw reminded D. McGee that personal comments are not the topic of the agenda item. D. McGee stated that access in the context of a library means that a minor would be able to pick up a book and flip through it. He compared the materials in question to a gateway drug. He stated that erotica should be behind the circulation desk or in a room with controlled access.

Jamie Segura – She is opposed to the resolution and stated that C. Branton can research the issue and see that legislative actions have already addressed his questions. She stated that if C. Branton has questions about the statute he can ask K. LaRocca, as she is an expert in what “access” means in terms of library materials. She praised the library’s robust card system that is being replicated in other library systems in the state. She stated that the library has taken every step possible to protect children, emphasizing that it is ultimately a parent’s role to protect their children in the library.

Joan Simon – Covington, LA. She is opposed to the resolution and considers it a waste of time. She feels that this is a thinly veiled excuse to bring up this issue. She questioned the validity of claims that children are running around the library looking for smut and porn, which she says does not exist in the library. She stated that the library is for everyone in the community. She spoke of the tiered card system being the model for the whole state.

Sonnet Ireland – She asked if any board members would like a copy of the 2023 guidance from Jeff Landry that C. Branton referenced. J. Corbin asked for a copy. S. Ireland stated that Jeff Landry worked hand-in-hand with Senator Cloud to craft this law. She stated that AG opinions are not binding and noted that the AG can refuse to give an opinion. She recommended that the Board consult with the Deputy State Librarian or Assistant State Librarian.

Becky Bohm – She is opposed to the resolution and stated that Jeff Landry already addressed this in his statements from 2023. She stated that the library has already set limits for access via the tiered card system, and noted that library staff now monitor the stacks full-time. She feels it is incorrect to say that a child can sit in a library for two hours reading a book without the staff noticing. She stated that 55% of voters approved the library’s millage—the only item on the ballot to pass—demonstrating community support. She stated that the attacks on J. Corbin are immature.

Kevin Marino – He is opposed to the resolution, stating that it is not needed and referenced the Implementation Guide by Jeff Landry. He stated that Jeff Landry spent a lot of time working on getting this law in place and the guide is written based on what he believes this law means. He noted that there were many amendments made before this bill was passed and believes that if they meant to define “access” as cordoning off sections to restrict books, they would have written that into the law. He added that doing so is against the First Amendment.

Lisa Rustemeyer – Mandeville, LA. She is opposed to the resolution and suggested that certain people were dissatisfied with the legislation and want further restrictions. She acknowledged the possibility that C. Branton is seeking clarification on how the law works. She noted that she has not heard of parents or librarians raising concerns about access. She stated that the law does not require the library to relocate any materials, and noted that the library has gone above and beyond in taking such actions.

There was one public comment from an individual who did not wish to speak and they are not in favor of the resolution.

DISCUSSION: A. Shaw asked J. Bolner to explain the rationale for requesting an opinion. J. Bolner stated that AG opinions are often requested to get clarity for public bodies when they are concerned about an issue. He noted that he cannot weigh in on whether the Board should ask for an opinion, but added that AG opinions are advisory and serve as sources of guidance.

A. Shaw asked K. LaRocca whether there have been any problems with children accessing books in the library that they should not. K. LaRocca answered that she is not aware of any instance where a child has read a book from the shelf for several hours and noted that staff would have had to witness such an event and inform her of it. She added that staff are actively supervising all areas of the library.

A. Shaw asked whether clarification of the term “access” would be helpful and questioned what it would provide beyond what is already known. J. Bolner acknowledged that it was a valid point but hesitated to respond, concerned about giving his personal opinions on the matter. He advised that it is important for the Board to understand that requesting an opinion may result in being bound by the response. While some AG opinions are disregarded, he expressed uncertainty about whether it would provide as much clarity as a judge's interpretation or court decision.

C. Branton stated that the library's policy has to comply with the law. He quoted the legislation: “It is the intent of the legislature to require libraries to adopt and implement policy language to limit the access of minors to sexually explicit materials.” He reiterated that legislation often has sections that define some of the terms they use, but this statute does not contain a definition for “access.” He stated that the library is acting based on a document that contains answers to written questions that lack legal analysis. He believes it would be beneficial to seek further clarification, noting that requesting guidance from the state's top legal advisor is a routine practice and part of due diligence.

T. Myers asked whether the AG could decline to respond. C. Branton stated that the AG will likely send a letter in reply, which would then be reviewed with the District Attorney's Office to determine what, if anything, could be gained from the response.

J. Corbin agreed with C. Branton's point that there is no actual written legal opinion but questioned whether one is really required. He read aloud Question 5 from Jeff Landry's Implementation Guide provided to the State Library: “Does LA R.S. 25:225 require that a library restrict a minor's access to library materials prior to check out?” He noted that the answer provided was “No,” and in his view, this suggests that the definition of “access” may be irrelevant in this context. He stated that the response appears to rely on a broad, colloquial definition of the term, as it was given without explanation or commentary.

MOTION #2 (to postpone): A motion was made by T. Myers and seconded by J. Corbin to postpone voting on Resolution 25-010 until the next board meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Sonnet Ireland – She stated that there have been multiple library directors that have asked questions like this and they received a letter stating that the AG refused to answer, because the word “access” is a broad term. She is not in favor of postponing and suggests voting no to the resolution.

Becky Bohm – She supports postponing the vote and stated that the Board needs to get its act together.

Joan Simon – She stated that this is all postulating for a certain audience who is not present. She stated that this is a waste of time. She believes that a vote on the resolution will result in a split vote. She reiterated that the resolution is unnecessary.

Barbara Hargrove – She stated that she is not in favor of postponing the vote.

Devin McGee – He stated that it is very telling that there is a general uneasiness around defining the term. He stated it is not a waste of time and believes it is just inconvenient for them to have to defend their claims. He disagreed with J. Corbin’s statement regarding the use of a broad, colloquial definition of “access” and stated that the terms should be clearly defined.

Alexis Smith – She asked about the Board’s plan if the current AG provides an opinion that differs from or aligns with the previous AG. She questioned whether they would suddenly change their minds or choose to disregard either opinion. She stated that small children with attentive parents are not going to walk across the library alone, find a book that might contain vulgarity or porn, locate it within the book, read it, and absorb the material.

Stephanie Nuccio – She stated that she takes her two children to the library every week and trusts the library. She expressed frustration and stated that she was tired of the ongoing situation. She stated that the resolution is ridiculous, noting that she has never seen children running around the library reading porn. She urged the Board to vote against the resolution and move forward.

Kevin Marino – He spoke against tabling or postponing the item, stating that it appears the Board frequently delays action when faced with difficult decisions. He noted that the board packet was posted a week prior, giving members ample time to consider the matter. He urged the Board to focus on getting real work done and considers this a waste of time.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Branton: No Corbin: No Kesler: No Myers: No Thanars: Yes Shaw: No

RESULT: Motion to postpone failed. (No – 5 | Yes – 1)

MOTION #1 (restated): The original motion to adopt Resolution 25-010, made by C. Branton and seconded by J. Kesler, was restated for consideration.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Branton: Yes Corbin: No Kesler: Yes Myers: Abstained Thanars: No Shaw: No

RESULT: Motion to adopt failed. (No – 3 | Yes – 2 | Abstained – 1)

E. Statement of Concern Decision – *Crank*

K. LaRocca presented the Statement of Concern for the book *Crank* by Ellen Hopkins. The statement was submitted by Frances Smith. K. LaRocca read the statement aloud.

The recommended action by F. Smith is: “Put it up where the teens can't read it.”

Reason given: "The book as a whole is over and over sex and drugs."

K. LaRocca reviewed the book résumé which includes the publisher's summary, number of print copies STPL owns (0), books on CD (1), E-audiobooks (1), total circulation on book on CD (13), total circulation on E-audiobook (7), comparable library system statistics, reviews by *Booklist*, *School Library Journal*, and *Publishers Weekly*. Also noted are awards and lists featuring this title. A total of 1,658 public libraries across the nation own copies of the book. The title is shelved in the Adult Fiction audiobook section with CD FIC Hopk as the call number.

K. LaRocca reviewed the committee's evaluation of the title which includes demographics of the committee members, the committee's report, and the committee's recommendation.

Summary of Committee Report: The committee noted that STPL originally had four print copies that were all lost, in 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2020. Because of waning interest in the author, the title was not replaced after 2020. The print copies had circulated a total of 162 times. The committee found that the book is a morality tale that encourages teens not to get involved in drugs and honestly portrays the consequences of drug use.

Options for the Board: Keep the book in the Adult Fiction section, move the book to a restricted area of the library, or remove the book from the library.

Committee Recommendation: The committee recommends that the book continue to be shelved in the Adult collection.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Frances Smith, the individual who submitted the Statement of Concern for *Crank*, was offered five minutes for public comment. She was not in attendance and did not appear for public comment.

Devin McGee – He spoke about the book not being appropriate for a children's library. He stated that the topic of the book is drug addiction and sexual escapades. He read passages aloud and stated that they were not taken out of context, noting that 27 of the 500+ pages contain similar content. He stated that these types of books can be purchased from a retailer and that his taxes should not be used to pay for them. He acknowledged that the book is located in the Adult section but stated that he intends to highlight the presence of a broader movement to make such materials accessible to young minds.

Johanna Miner – Mandeville, LA. She stated that she is speaking on behalf of Fran Smith. She read a letter provided by F. Smith aloud. A copy of the letter will be included with the public comment cards on record. J. Miner asked why K. LaRocca will not identify who is purchasing the books and stated her belief that it is T. DiMaggio.

Sonnet Ireland – She noted that the book is in the Adult section. She stated that, as someone who has suffered sexual assault, she finds it concerning that anyone might be turned on by the content of the book. She stated that the book addresses bad things that can happen and emphasized that it is not intended to be titillating. She noted that drug use is not covered under obscenity laws and added that books can help readers recognize themselves and where their choices in life can take them.

Becky Bohm – She noted that the SOC claims that the book is in the Children’s section and needs to be moved, but it was never in the Children’s section. She stated the book should stay in the Adult section or be moved to the New Adult section. She acknowledged that the book addresses sensitive topics and noted that with 1 in 3 women experiencing sexual assault in their lifetime, the book may help those who have endured such an experience.

Lisa Rustemeyer – She noted that the complainant was not in attendance. She stated that the book is a cautionary tale for teens and noted that the author wrote the book based on her daughter’s addiction. She stated that the book was in the library for 16 years in the Teen section. She stated that the book does not glamorize drug use or promiscuity. She questioned the necessity of the Board making decisions about a book in the absence of the complainant and also questioned the need to review materials already located in the Adult section.

T. DiMaggio addressed L. Rustemeyer’s statement, clarifying that the book was not located in the Teen section and that all Teen or Young Adult (YA) books on CD were shelved in the Adult section prior to the implementation of the new card system. She further explained that there was no YA audiobook section for CDs due to space limitations. Both the YA books on CD and YA non-fiction books were shelved in the Adult section, with labels indicating they were intended for a YA or Teen audience.

Alexis Smith – Pearl River, LA. She stated that *Crank* was one of the first books she checked out from the library when she was a teen. She stated that the book scared her and compared its impact to that of the Scared Straight program. She stated that she gained more from this book than she did from the D.A.R.E. program. She reiterated that the book was never in the Children’s section.

Kevin Marino – He stated that, according to current library policy, any book containing sexual content belongs in the Adult section. While he disagrees with the policy, he noted that the book is shelved appropriately under its guidelines. He stated that the book is written for teenagers and, although it contains disturbing concepts, it is relatable because of the very real drug problem in St. Tammany Parish. He read aloud a statement about the book from author Ellen Hopkins.

There were four public comments from individuals who did not wish to speak and they were in favor of the book remaining in the Adult section or moving to the Teen section.

DISCUSSION: There was no Board discussion.

MOTION: J. Kesler moved to affirm the committee’s recommendation for *Crank* to remain in the Adult Fiction collection. It was seconded by T. Myers.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Branton: Yes Corbin: Yes Kesler: Yes Myers: Yes Thanars: Yes Shaw: Yes

RESULT: Motion carried. (Unanimous 6-0)

F. Statement of Concern Decision – *Identical*

K. LaRocca presented the Statement of Concern for the book *Identical* by Ellen Hopkins. The statement was submitted by Rosalind Murr. K. LaRocca read the statement aloud.

The recommended action by R. Murr is: "Remove it from any children's sections, ask for ID to check out and not allowable for a minor to download."

Reason given: "This is breaking child"

K. LaRocca reviewed the book résumé which includes the publisher's summary, number of print copies STPL owns (1), number of electronic copies available (2 – Overdrive and Hoopla), total circulation on all print copies (184), total circulation on all electronic copies (33), comparable library system statistics, reviews by *Publishers Weekly*, *School Library Journal*, and *The Horn Book Guide*. Also noted are awards and lists featuring this title. A total of 1,967 public libraries across the nation own copies of the book. The title was originally shelved in YA Fiction, but is now shelved in the New Adult section of the Adult Fiction collection with NA Hopk as the call number.

K. LaRocca reviewed the committee's evaluation of the title which includes demographics of the committee members, the committee's report, and the committee's recommendation.

Summary of Committee Report: The book was moved in 2023 to Adult Fiction to conform to the library's tiered card system and LA R.S. 25:225. All of Ellen Hopkins books in the YA section have been reviewed and those with sexual conduct have been moved to Adult Fiction per Library Board of Control Rules and Regulations.

Options for the Board: Keep the book as part of the Adult collection, move the book to a restricted area of the library, or remove the book from the library.

Committee Recommendation: The committee recommends that the book continue to be shelved in the Adult collection.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Rosalind Murr, the individual who submitted the Statement of Concern for *Identical*, was offered five minutes for public comment. She was not in attendance and did not appear for public comment.

Devin McGee – He read the Publisher's Summary for the book *Identical* aloud. He stated that he assumes the main focus of the story is heavy drug use and sex and noted that the intended audience is ages 14-17. He stated this points to a broader issue with our culture and asked why the books are being recommended to 14-17-year olds. He asked the board to be honest in their book reviews and not to be intimidated by activists.

Lisa Rustemeyer – She noted that the complainant was not in attendance and she feels it is a waste of time for the Board to review the book. She noted the book was originally in the YA section for many years without a complaint. She asked what criteria would have to exist for the Board to consider actually removing a book from the library.

Sonnet Ireland – She stated that the content in the book depicts rape, not sex, and stated that referring to such an act committed against one's will as sex is comparable to calling burglary an involuntary donation. She reiterated that the book is not meant to titillate, but rather to horrify and teach empathy. She reiterated that the book is in the Adult section.

Becky Bohm – She stated that the book should be in the New Adult section of the Adult collection, as it is written for 14-17-year olds. She agreed that the content is not meant to be sexually arousing.

There were three public comments from individuals who did not wish to speak and they were in favor of the book remaining in the Adult section or returning to the Teen section.

DISCUSSION: There was no Board discussion.

MOTION: T. Myers moved to affirm the committee’s recommendation for *Identical* to remain in the Adult Fiction collection. It was seconded by J. Kesler.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Branton: Yes Corbin: Yes Kesler: Yes Myers: Yes Thanars: Yes Shaw: Yes

RESULT: Motion carried. (Unanimous 6-0)

G. Statement of Concern Decision – *Lawn Boy*

K. LaRocca presented the Statement of Concern for the book *Lawn Boy* by Jonathan Evison. The statement was submitted by Rosalind Murr. K. LaRocca read the statement aloud.

The recommended action by R. Murr is: “Remove it from any children’s sections, ask for ID to check out and not allowable for a minor to download.”

Reason given: “This is breaking child”

K. LaRocca reviewed the book résumé which includes the publisher’s summary, number of print copies STPL owns (4), total circulation on all print copies (24), number of electronic copies available (4 – via Overdrive, Cloud Library, and Hoopla), comparable library system statistics, reviews by *Library Journal*, *Publishers Weekly*, *Kirkus Reviews*, *Booklist*, *School Library Journal*, and *Shelf Awareness*. Also noted are awards and lists featuring this title. The title is shelved in the Adult Fiction collection with Fic Evis as the call number.

K. LaRocca reviewed the committee’s evaluation of the title which includes demographics of the committee members, the committee’s report, and the committee’s recommendation.

Summary of Committee Report: At the time of the committee’s review, two SOC’s had been submitted for the title—one by Rosalind Murr and one by another individual. Although the other individual rescinded her SOC, the committee had already reviewed the book based on both submissions. The book is shelved in Adult Fiction and has always been shelved in Adult Fiction. Because the other individual cited the Louisiana Criminal Law Revised Statute 14:91.11, the book was evaluated based on the criteria set forth in the statute. The committee did not find a violation of the statute. In compliance with LA R.S. 25:225, the STPL card system does not allow any minor with a Restricted or Semi-restricted card to check out the book from the library.

Options for the Board: Keep the book in the Adult Fiction section, move the book to a restricted area of the library, or remove the book from the library.

Committee Recommendation: The book should remain in Adult Fiction where it is restricted to minors by parental or guardian choice with our card system.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Rosalind Murr, the individual who submitted the Statement of Concern for *Lawn Boy*, was offered five minutes for public comment. She was not in attendance and did not appear for public comment.

Devin McGee – He stated that books like this are often defended as works intended to provide representation for marginalized voices. He stated the book contains profanity and descriptive sexual encounters. He referenced queer theory, stating his belief that it aims to influence young readers to adopt queer lifestyles and become radical change agents. He began discussing drag queens and storytime, at which point A. Shaw reminded him to stay on topic, noting that the discussion did not pertain to drag queens.

Rachel Rhodes – Mandeville, LA. She spoke in support of all the books on the agenda. She acknowledged that the books explore mature and complex themes and noted that they are located in the Adult section. She stated that teens are sexually educated by computers, phones, and friends. She stated that if these books are moved behind the counter, then the Bible should be treated the same.

Lisa Rustemeyer – She noted that the complainant was not in attendance. She clarified that there are two books titled *Lawn Boy*—Jonathan Evison’s is in the Adult section and Gary Paulsen’s is in the Children’s section—and noted that this may have caused confusion among those who mistakenly believe Evison’s book is in the Children’s section. She reiterated that this is a waste of time, as the book is in the Adult section.

Sonnet Ireland – She spoke about the confusion of the two *Lawn Boy* books and the erroneous claims that this book is located in the Children’s section. She suggested that the Board adopt a resolution stating that books already placed in the Adult section should not be subject to review.

Becky Bohm – She stated that she, too, was initially confused by the two *Lawn Boy* books and questioned whether those who implied Evison’s book was in the Children’s section may have done so intentionally. She reiterated that the book is in the Adult section and should remain there.

There were three public comments from individuals who did not wish to speak and they were all in favor of the book remaining in the Adult section.

DISCUSSION: There was no Board discussion.

MOTION: D. Thanars moved to affirm the committee’s recommendation for *Lawn Boy* to remain in the Adult Fiction collection. It was seconded by T. Myers.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Branton: Yes Corbin: Yes Kesler: Yes Myers: Yes Thanars: Yes Shaw: Yes

RESULT: Motion carried. (Unanimous 6-0)

H. Executive Session for the Annual Evaluation of the Director pursuant to La R.S. 42:17(1)
***2/3 majority vote of members present required to go into executive session.**

MOTION #1: D. Thanars moved to go into Executive Session. It was seconded by T. Myers.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Branton: Yes Corbin: Yes Kesler: Yes Myers: Yes Thanars: Yes Shaw: Yes

RESULT: Motion carried. (Unanimous 6-0)

The Board members went into Executive Session.

The Board members returned from Executive Session.

MOTION #2: D. Thanars moved to return from Executive Session. It was seconded by T. Myers.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Branton: Yes Corbin: Yes Kesler: Yes Myers: Yes Thanars: Yes Shaw: Yes

RESULT: Motion carried. (Unanimous 6-0)

A. Shaw stated that no action was being taken that required a vote by the Board. A. Shaw complimented K. LaRocca on her exemplary job performance, noting her success in passing the millage renewal. She praised K. LaRocca for being proactive, dedicated, flexible, and highlighted her ability to work well with her staff. A. Shaw also commended K. LaRocca for her exemplary fulfillment of fiduciary responsibilities and acknowledged D. Cuevas' assistance to K. LaRocca in achieving clean annual audits.

4. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by general consensus.

Ann Shaw, Board President

[illegible]

St. Tammany Parish Library - General Fund
Balance Sheet
April 30, 2025

2

ASSETS

Current Assets

Cash	\$	14,844,444.86
Cash - Health Claims		(12,623.40)
Due from Paylocity		726.78
Returned Checks		0.00
Ad Valorem Receivable - 2024		506,287.50
Ad Valorem Receivable - 2025		4,166,666.68
Ad Valorem Receivable - 2023		0.00
Due from State of Louisiana		267,497.68
Prepaid Expenses		64,340.95

Total Current Assets		19,837,341.05
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Other Assets

Deposits		1,981.00
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Total Other Assets		1,981.00
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Total Assets	\$	19,839,322.05
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LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE

Current Liabilities

Accrued Expenses	\$	11,838.00
Accrued Salaries		43,092.09
Deferred Inflows - Ad Valorem		109,467.00
Elective Benefits Payable		(1,338.71)
Retirement Payable		74,525.54
Health Claims Payable		249,918.55

Total Current Liabilities		487,502.47
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Fund Balance

Fund Balance		19,351,819.58
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Total Fund Balance		19,351,819.58
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Total Liabilities & Fund Balance	\$	19,839,322.05
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St. Tammany Parish Library
Statement of Changes in Fund Balance
For the Four Months Ending April 30, 2025

3

Beginning Fund Balance	\$	19,059,153.63
Net Income		292,665.95
		<hr/>
Ending Fund Balance	\$	<u>19,351,819.58</u>

St. Tammany Parish Library-General Fund
Statement of Revenues and Expenditures
For the Four Months Ending April 30, 2025

4

	<u>Current</u> <u>Period</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>Year to</u> <u>Date Actual</u>	<u>Yearly</u> <u>Total</u> <u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>	<u>YTD Act</u> <u>to YTD</u> <u>Budget</u>
Revenues					
Ad Valorem Taxes	\$ 1,041,666.67	\$ 4,166,666.68	12,500,000.00	8,333,333.32	33.33
State Revenue Sharing	22,025.17	88,100.68	264,302.00	176,201.32	33.33
Fines/Fees	6,877.96	31,256.86	99,500.00	68,243.14	31.41
Interest Income	20,863.58	65,536.50	179,000.00	113,463.50	36.61
Insurance Proceeds	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Donations Received	240.61	32,015.89	30,000.00	(2,015.89)	106.72
Summer Reading Shirt Sales	0.00	0.00	2,120.00	2,120.00	0.00
Total Revenues	1,091,673.99	4,383,576.61	13,074,922.00	8,691,345.39	33.53
Expenditures					
Library Administration	437,342.81	1,737,823.59	6,090,000.00	4,352,176.41	28.54
Employee Benefits	190,743.81	589,840.36	2,331,480.00	1,741,639.64	25.30
Advertising,Dues & Subscriptio	12,357.45	19,546.96	57,000.00	37,453.04	34.29
Signage	69.71	150.51	4,000.00	3,849.49	3.76
Printing, Duplicating & Bindin	0.00	4,821.00	29,500.00	24,679.00	16.34
Promotional Production	2,159.77	8,222.63	20,000.00	11,777.37	41.11
Utilities	35,176.44	116,654.48	335,470.00	218,815.52	34.77
Communications	12,361.60	33,006.34	97,300.00	64,293.66	33.92
Leases	32,896.89	113,539.60	341,750.00	228,210.40	33.22
Maintenance of Property & Equi	48,490.05	232,627.47	695,750.00	463,122.53	33.44
Maintenance Services (Building	16,950.40	112,152.77	281,605.00	169,452.23	39.83
Professional Services	33,631.32	159,398.30	487,925.00	328,526.70	32.67
Insurance and Claims	0.00	44,162.50	302,063.00	257,900.50	14.62
Operating Supplies	14,443.87	71,364.10	209,500.00	138,135.90	34.06
Travel & Continuing Education	7,417.03	16,459.84	69,000.00	52,540.16	23.85
Public Relations/Programming	10,736.63	27,295.46	136,500.00	109,204.54	20.00
Capital Outlay-Non-Book Acq.	11,118.22	169,248.56	331,000.00	161,751.44	51.13
Capital Outlay-library Res. Ac	112,558.98	569,629.69	1,437,500.00	867,870.31	39.63
Outreach	0.00	64,966.50	65,000.00	33.50	99.95
Total Expenditures	978,454.98	4,090,910.66	13,322,343.00	9,231,432.34	30.71
Excess of Revenues/(Expenditur	\$ 113,219.01	\$ 292,665.95	(247,421.00)	(540,086.95)	(118.29)

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

St. Tammany Parish Library-General Fund
Schedule of Expenditures
For the Four Months Ending April 30, 2025

6

	<u>Current Period Actual</u>	<u>Year to Date Actual</u>	<u>Yearly Total Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>	<u>YTD Actual to YTD Budget</u>
Library Administration					
Library Salaries	\$ 437,342.81	\$ 1,737,823.59	\$ 6,090,000.00	4,352,176.41	28.54
Total	\$ 437,342.81	\$ 1,737,823.59	\$ 6,090,000.00	4,352,176.41	28.54
Employee Benefits					
FICA/ Supplemental Retirement	\$ 9,759.38	\$ 38,963.02	\$ 134,000.00	95,036.98	29.08
Retirement Contributions	45,845.61	171,529.85	577,480.00	405,950.15	29.70
Health Insurance Expense	25,482.59	98,885.56	390,000.00	291,114.44	25.36
Health Trust	116,039.42	273,153.88	1,197,000.00	923,846.12	22.82
Worker's Compensation Expense	(6,383.19)	7,308.05	32,000.00	24,691.95	22.84
Employee Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00
Total	\$ 190,743.81	\$ 589,840.36	\$ 2,331,480.00	1,741,639.64	25.30
Advertising, Dues & Subscriptions					
Publication of Legal Notices	\$ 1,347.45	\$ 2,328.79	\$ 13,500.00	11,171.21	17.25
Membership Dues	0.00	0.00	7,500.00	7,500.00	0.00
Advertising	11,010.00	17,218.17	36,000.00	18,781.83	47.83
Total	\$ 12,357.45	\$ 19,546.96	\$ 57,000.00	37,453.04	34.29
Signage					
Signage	\$ 69.71	\$ 150.51	\$ 4,000.00	3,849.49	3.76
Total	\$ 69.71	\$ 150.51	\$ 4,000.00	3,849.49	3.76
Printing, Duplicating & Binding					
Printing	\$ 0.00	\$ 4,821.00	\$ 19,500.00	14,679.00	24.72
Book Binding	0.00	0.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	0.00
Patron Cards	0.00	0.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	0.00
Total	\$ 0.00	\$ 4,821.00	\$ 29,500.00	24,679.00	16.34
Promotional Production					
Promotional Production	\$ 2,159.77	\$ 8,222.63	\$ 20,000.00	11,777.37	41.11
Total	\$ 2,159.77	\$ 8,222.63	\$ 20,000.00	11,777.37	41.11

St. Tammany Parish Library-General Fund
Schedule of Expenditures
For the Four Months Ending April 30, 2025

7

	<u>Current Period Actual</u>	<u>Year to Date Actual</u>	<u>Yearly Total Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>	<u>YTD Actual to YTD Budget</u>
Utilities					
Electricity	\$ 31,420.97	\$ 100,992.89	\$ 287,220.00	186,227.11	35.16
Gas	101.04	1,499.53	3,250.00	1,750.47	46.14
Water	3,654.43	14,162.06	45,000.00	30,837.94	31.47
Total	\$ 35,176.44	\$ 116,654.48	\$ 335,470.00	218,815.52	34.77
Communications					
Postage	\$ 4,041.50	\$ 4,690.81	\$ 21,000.00	16,309.19	22.34
Voice Line	5,692.25	17,968.08	44,000.00	26,031.92	40.84
Data Lines (Internet)	2,573.20	10,292.80	31,300.00	21,007.20	32.88
Courier/Shipping	54.65	54.65	1,000.00	945.35	5.47
Total	\$ 12,361.60	\$ 33,006.34	\$ 97,300.00	64,293.66	33.92
Leases					
Building Lease Expense	\$ 32,896.89	\$ 112,243.45	\$ 333,000.00	220,756.55	33.71
Equipment Lease Expense	0.00	1,296.15	6,000.00	4,703.85	21.60
Vehicle Lease Expense	0.00	0.00	2,750.00	2,750.00	0.00
Total	\$ 32,896.89	\$ 113,539.60	\$ 341,750.00	228,210.40	33.22
Maintenance of Property & Equipment					
Custodial and Janitorial	\$ 16,909.78	\$ 71,116.94	\$ 215,000.00	143,883.06	33.08
Grounds/Lawn Maintenance	6,873.00	27,632.00	85,000.00	57,368.00	32.51
Maintenance Supplies	797.16	3,128.88	10,000.00	6,871.12	31.29
Fuel & Lube	3,760.84	8,963.97	35,000.00	26,036.03	25.61
Vehicle Repairs	1,035.50	4,784.03	10,000.00	5,215.97	47.84
Small Tools	82.39	120.64	3,000.00	2,879.36	4.02
Office Machine & Equip Repair	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00
Network Utility Software	18,772.16	56,698.95	228,250.00	171,551.05	24.84
Solinet (OCLC) Cost	0.00	0.00	32,000.00	32,000.00	0.00
Polaris Maintenance	0.00	54,999.06	55,000.00	0.94	100.00
PC Network Maintenance & Repai	259.22	5,183.00	11,500.00	6,317.00	45.07
Hurricane Disaster Costs	0.00	0.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	0.00
Total	\$ 48,490.05	\$ 232,627.47	\$ 695,750.00	463,122.53	33.44
Maintenance of Services (Buildings)					
Physical Plant	\$ 14,296.26	\$ 67,517.57	\$ 160,000.00	92,482.43	42.20
Plumbing, Heating and AC	780.69	35,181.64	66,500.00	31,318.36	52.90
Electrical	138.74	3,794.68	13,000.00	9,205.32	29.19
Sanitation	398.71	2,252.88	12,000.00	9,747.12	18.77

St. Tammany Parish Library-General Fund
Schedule of Expenditures
For the Four Months Ending April 30, 2025

8

	<u>Current Period Actual</u>	<u>Year to Date Actual</u>	<u>Yearly Total Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>	<u>YTD Actual to YTD Budget</u>
Pest Control	690.00	2,760.00	7,550.00	4,790.00	36.56
Termite Contract	646.00	646.00	4,555.00	3,909.00	14.18
Carpet Cleaning	0.00	0.00	18,000.00	18,000.00	0.00
Total	\$ 16,950.40	\$ 112,152.77	\$ 281,605.00	169,452.23	39.83
Professional Services					
Payroll Service Fees	\$ 3,068.99	\$ 13,738.57	\$ 38,600.00	24,861.43	35.59
Financial	20,103.37	20,859.62	51,000.00	30,140.38	40.90
Consultants	5,745.00	31,346.00	40,000.00	8,654.00	78.37
Security	4,713.96	9,195.24	14,000.00	4,804.76	65.68
Web Design Consultant	0.00	84,258.87	94,325.00	10,066.13	89.33
Proposals (Ballot)	0.00	0.00	250,000.00	250,000.00	0.00
Total	\$ 33,631.32	\$ 159,398.30	\$ 487,925.00	328,526.70	32.67
Insurance and Claims					
Library Property Insurance	\$ 0.00	\$ 4,574.00	\$ 200,000.00	195,426.00	2.29
Flood Insurance	0.00	0.00	29,600.00	29,600.00	0.00
Vehicle Insurance	0.00	20,238.50	42,107.00	21,868.50	48.06
LBOC Liability	0.00	0.00	4,676.00	4,676.00	0.00
General Liability	0.00	19,350.00	25,680.00	6,330.00	75.35
Total	\$ 0.00	\$ 44,162.50	\$ 302,063.00	257,900.50	14.62
Operating Supplies					
Office Supplies	\$ 2,257.04	\$ 10,477.41	\$ 33,000.00	22,522.59	31.75
Bank Service Charges	1,402.42	5,696.20	16,500.00	10,803.80	34.52
Book Preparation Supplies	3,386.27	13,740.25	49,000.00	35,259.75	28.04
Computer/Printer Supplies	6,261.71	37,515.13	100,000.00	62,484.87	37.52
Programming Supplies	1,136.43	3,935.11	11,000.00	7,064.89	35.77
Total	\$ 14,443.87	\$ 71,364.10	\$ 209,500.00	138,135.90	34.06
Travel and Continuing Education					
Staff Travel - Local	\$ 2,576.23	\$ 4,412.40	\$ 22,000.00	17,587.60	20.06
Library In-service Training	172.86	172.86	12,000.00	11,827.14	1.44
Conventions & Seminars	4,667.94	11,874.58	35,000.00	23,125.42	33.93
Total	\$ 7,417.03	\$ 16,459.84	\$ 69,000.00	52,540.16	23.85

St. Tammany Parish Library-General Fund
Schedule of Expenditures
For the Four Months Ending April 30, 2025

9

	<u>Current Period Actual</u>	<u>Year to Date Actual</u>	<u>Yearly Total Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>	<u>YTD Actual to YTD Budget</u>
Public Relations/Programming					
Summer Reading Program	\$ 1,854.68	\$ 1,854.68	\$ 50,000.00	48,145.32	3.71
Summer Reading T-shirts	6,235.38	6,235.38	8,000.00	1,764.62	77.94
Adult Programming	971.46	11,016.90	39,000.00	27,983.10	28.25
Young Adult Programming	157.89	996.90	17,000.00	16,003.10	5.86
Juvenile Programming	1,517.22	7,191.60	22,500.00	15,308.40	31.96
Total	\$ 10,736.63	\$ 27,295.46	\$ 136,500.00	109,204.54	20.00
Capital Outlay-Non-Book Acq					
Landscape Additions	\$ 1,370.00	\$ 21,500.00	\$ 46,000.00	24,500.00	46.74
Imp Phys Plant	0.00	13,710.00	90,000.00	76,290.00	15.23
Office Equip, Furn & Shelving	673.62	6,171.50	30,000.00	23,828.50	20.57
PC Network	8,974.60	127,688.08	133,000.00	5,311.92	96.01
Integrated Lib Automation Sys	0.00	0.00	9,000.00	9,000.00	0.00
Cameras	100.00	100.00	3,000.00	2,900.00	3.33
Audio/Visual Equipment	0.00	78.98	20,000.00	19,921.02	0.39
Total	\$ 11,118.22	\$ 169,248.56	\$ 331,000.00	161,751.44	51.13
Capital Outlay-Library Res. Acq.					
Adult Books	\$ 15,497.71	\$ 55,978.35	\$ 205,000.00	149,021.65	27.31
Lease/Purchase Books	0.00	10,966.20	11,400.00	433.80	96.19
Juvenile Books	12,373.69	24,046.00	105,000.00	80,954.00	22.90
Young Adults	561.03	2,715.36	15,000.00	12,284.64	18.10
Music Recordings	27.96	628.18	2,500.00	1,871.82	25.13
Adult Reference	13,579.61	33,909.59	111,000.00	77,090.41	30.55
Juvenile Reference	11,192.75	34,140.16	45,000.00	10,859.84	75.87
Periodicals	5,546.00	19,554.31	50,000.00	30,445.69	39.11
Audio Recordings	884.30	1,002.27	10,100.00	9,097.73	9.92
Video Recordings	2,339.30	9,118.20	60,000.00	50,881.80	15.20
Genealogy	238.69	686.64	7,000.00	6,313.36	9.81
Microfilm	0.00	2,493.00	2,500.00	7.00	99.72
Downloadable Media	40,523.87	137,867.86	415,000.00	277,132.14	33.22
CD/Software	9,794.07	33,986.10	65,000.00	31,013.90	52.29
Internet Database Subscription	0.00	202,537.47	333,000.00	130,462.53	60.82
Total	\$ 112,558.98	\$ 569,629.69	\$ 1,437,500.00	867,870.31	39.63
Capital Expenditures					
Outreach Vehicle	\$ 0.00	\$ 64,966.50	\$ 65,000.00	33.50	99.95

St. Tammany Parish Library-General Fund
Schedule of Expenditures
For the Four Months Ending April 30, 2025

10

	<u>Current Period Actual</u>	<u>Year to Date Actual</u>	<u>Yearly Total Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>	<u>YTD Actual to YTD Budget</u>
Total	\$ <u>0.00</u>	\$ <u>64,966.50</u>	\$ <u>65,000.00</u>	<u>33.50</u>	<u>99.95</u>

Director's Report

May 19, 2025

FACILITIES

Maintenance collected all donations for Food for Fines at the beginning of the month. A total of 2,637 lbs of food was collected and delivered to local food banks on the east and west sides of the parish.

IT

The IT department replaced the Covington public computers per our 5-year cycle.

MARKETING AND OUTREACH

Jillian Boudreaux, Adult Programming Coordinator, promoted the Summer Reading Challenge on the STPG-TV Lifestyles show on May 1st.

Jenny Mayer, Children's Services Coordinator, Jennifer Rifino, Teen Services Coordinator, Jackie Riecke, Public Relations and Community Coordinator, and Jillian Boudreaux promoted the Summer Reading Challenge, Summer Reading Kickoff parties and other events happening in May on the radio stations the Lake 94.7 and the Highway 104.7 on May 2nd.

Tanya DiMaggio, Assistant Director of Support Services, spoke to the Slidell Rotary Club with Nichola Kleye about the Mobile Library and Summer Reading Program on May 6th. DiMaggio also presented a storytelling workshop to the staff of the Children's Museum of St. Tammany on May 18th during their staff training day.

Rhonda Spiess, Lacombe Branch Manager, presented storytime and promoted the Summer Reading Challenge at Lacombe Mandeville Headstart on April 30th, dressed as a green Crayon. Spiess also presented a scavenger hunt and storywalk at the Mayfield Elementary Jazz & Art Festival outreach table on May 2nd. Furthermore, she provided storytime at A-Z Preschool on May 14th and Chahta-Ima Elementary on May 20th.

Byron Holdiman, Reference Coordinator, Kellie Nelson, Causeway Reference Librarian, and Jennifer Rifino provided resources and promoted the Summer Reading Challenge at the Mental Health and Wellness Fair on May 13th.

Tracey Angerdina, Children's Librarian at the Causeway Branch, provided storytime outreach at Tiny Tumblers on April 28th and May 19th. Angerdina also conducted storytime outreach at Fontainebleau Children's Academy on May 6th and at St. Timothy's for Tots and 2's on May 13th and for 3s and 4s on May 14th.

Erika Dawson, Children's Librarian at South Slidell, provided storytime at Kidz Klub House on May 5th and Charlotte's Web on May 5th. Dawson also presented storytime at Children's College on May 6th and at St. Margaret Mary on May 16th.

Jane Johnson, Slidell Reference Librarian, provided outreach at the Pearl River COAST center on May 19th.

Nichola Kleyale, Branch Manager of the Mobile Library, conducted lobby stops at Covington COAST Senior Center on April 30th and May 15th, Madisonville COAST Senior Center and Peristyle at Beau West on May 7th, Bush COAST Senior Center on May 8th, and Pearl River COAST Senior Center on May 14th. Kleyale also presented Mobile Library services at the Truth About Senior Living seminar at Slidell Alder's Gate on May 13th, and at the Library Foundation on May 13th. Furthermore, Kleyale made a lobby stop at the Folsom COAST Senior Center on May 19th.

Lisa Haley, Lee Road Branch Manager, promoted the Summer Reading Challenge for Pre-K and first graders on May 7th.

Jennifer Rifino provided outreach at the YMCA's HKD5K (Healthy Kids Day 5K) ON May 10th.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Tanya DiMaggio attended the Leadership Northshore Closing Retreat on May 6th and 7th.

Charlene Barrett and Abby Mayfield, Teen Services Librarians, attended the LA Readers' Choice Awards Committee Meeting on May 10th.

Several members of the IT department and some ERC managers attended the State Library Tech Fest on May 2nd.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The Adult Programming department partnered with St. Tammany Master Gardners to hold the 2025 Garden Fest: Spring into Fun event at the Covington branch on May 3rd. The event included table talks on hummingbirds, vermiculture, Peggy Martin roses, pollinators, and a seed planting activity for children. A guest speaker from the LSU Ag Center gave a lecture on lawn and garden care for the summer months. Even with inclement weather, the library saw 88 guests at this event.

CONTRACTS

Adobe Creative Cloud	5/3/25-5/2/26	\$1,679.52
Allegion Access Technologies LLC	3/1/2025 – 2/28/2026	\$2,000.00

Maintenance Contract for parts and labor for the Covington branch automatic doors

**Correction:* Office 365 and Entra ID licenses (Howard Technology) 5/1/25-4/30/26
\$22,462.50 – (This was listed last month, but we requested 3 quotes from state contract vendors and chose the lowest)

NEW LIBRARY SERVICES

Our Mobile Library Service continues to add nursing home and COAST stops for Lobby stop service. We are planning an official ribbon cutting - I will have more information on the ribbon cutting at the Board meeting

PUBLIC RECORDS REQUESTS

We received 2 new public records requests since our last meeting. As of the writing of this report (5/12/25) we are currently conducting the search to respond to these two requests. We have one public records request result at the DA's office for review.

STATEMENTS OF CONCERN

Since the last meeting, we have had no statements of concern filed. We currently have 110 statements of concern on 107 titles. Library staff continue to read titles, hold meetings, and make recommendations. The remaining statements of concern are still pending review.

TRANSITION OF MATERIALS

Books Moved to Adult Fiction Because of Sexual Conduct

The Moon and More	Dessen, Sarah
The Moon and More & Just Listen	Dessen, Sarah

Books Reviewed and Determined to Not Have Sexual Conduct (remain in Teen Fiction)

After Death	De la Cruz, Melissa
Escape From the Isle of the Lost	De la Cruz, Melissa
Going Dark	De la Cruz, Melissa
Just Listen: A Novel	Dessen, Sarah
Unbecoming	Downham, Jenny

MEMO



ST. TAMMANY PARISH

Michael B. Cooper
Parish President

DATE: MAY 14, 2025
TO: KELLY LAROCCA, DIRECTOR
FROM: SHAWN HOOVER, DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT
RE: LIBRARY – LACOMBE BRANCH REPLACEMENT

In reference to the above referenced project, please be advised that President Cooper has selected RCL Architecture, to handle the architectural and engineering services. RCL Architecture is located in Mandeville, Louisiana. Procurement is currently in the process of contracting with RCL Architecture. After the contract has been fully executed, you will be notified by Parish personnel and a Notice to Proceed will be issued moving the project forward.

Authorizing signature:

Shawn Hoover

Shawn Hoover, Director | Department of Procurement

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MEMO



ST. TAMMANY PARISH

Michael B. Cooper
Parish President

DATE: MAY 14, 2025
TO: KELLY LAROCCA, DIRECTOR
FROM: SHAWN HOOVER, DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT
RE: LIBRARY – SLIDELL BRANCH EXPANSION

In reference to the above referenced project, please be advised that President Cooper has selected Meyer Engineers, LTD., to handle the architectural and engineering services. Meyer Engineers, LTD. is located in Metairie, Louisiana. Procurement is currently in the process of contracting with Meyer Engineers. After the contract has been fully executed, you will be notified by Parish personnel and a Notice to Proceed will be issued moving the project forward.

Authorizing signature:

Shawn Hoover

April 2025 Service Statistics

Branch	Adult Books	CD	DVD	Exp Pass	ILL	Juv Bks	Mag	Pbks	YA/Teen	Virtual	Total Circulation	Computer Usage	Door Count	Wireless Inside	Wireless Outside
Admin/Annex	268	29	26	0	32	64	0	0	628		1,047				
Abita	602	38	166	0	24	373	0	0	30		1,233	127	1,483	101	182
Bush	191	17	263	0	5	165	0	0	5		646	71	746	39	94
Causeway	1833	135	637	0	31	2146	62	0	133		4,977	511	5,011	822	720
Covington	3006	181	1466	0	28	3238	79	39	247		8,284	1,064	7,151	2,005	803
Folsom	429	12	362	0	14	340	49	0	42		1,248	217	1,348	113	156
Lacombe	240	54	169	1	11	355	3	2	23		858	225	1,413	109	128
Lee Road	282	20	107	0	1	427	4	1	24		866	36	701	47	149
Madisonville	1136	53	397	0	29	1528	24	0	106		3,273	405	3,856	778	359
Mandeville	2326	206	734	1	45	3647	31	3	145		7,138	994	6,301	776	480
Mobile	81	0	5	0	1	0	2	0	0		89				
Pearl River	335	7	103	0	18	277	8	28	15		791	229	1,457	120	225
Slidell	3340	203	1057	0	39	3651	189	169	558		9,206	1,912	15,640	1,457	2,354
South Slidell	568	31	406	0	13	721	1	4	40		1,784	1,455	5,550	955	1,119
Virtual ¹										36,240	36,240				
Total	14,637	986	5,898	2	291	16,932	452	246	1,996	36,240	77,680	7,246	50,657	7,322	6,769

1 - Virtual stats include Overdrive, Tumblebooks, 3M Cloud Library, Rbdigital, Hoopla

CD=CompactDisc; DVD=DigitalVersatileDisc; ILL=InterLibraryLoan; Mag=Magazines
Pbks=Paperbacks; YA=Young Adult

Patrons Registered: **591**

Jan - Apr. YTD 2025
Service Statistics

Branch	Adult Books	CD	DVD	Exp Pass	ILL	Juv Bks	Mag	Pbks	YA/Teen	Virtual	Total Circulation	Computer Usage	Door Count	Wireless Inside	Wireless Outside
Admin/Annex	1,731	202	211	0	93	497	4	0	1566		4,304				
Abita	2315	184	559	0	91	1637	21	0	71		4,878	552	5,777	371	760
Bush	775	78	1204	0	22	576	26	0	30		2,711	279	2,647	177	354
Causeway	7636	442	2810	0	119	8315	242	0	576		20,140	1,964	19,336	3,118	2,956
Covington	12798	833	6036	0	108	13125	301	231	730		34,162	3,800	27,438	7,777	3,268
Folsom	1527	83	1229	0	43	1400	273	0	132		4,687	714	4,886	360	478
Lacombe	933	130	850	2	38	1293	14	25	82		3,367	808	5,428	532	517
Lee Road	1154	112	409	0	6	1427	4	3	70		3,185	174	2,786	218	631
Madisonville	4550	276	1499	0	130	6434	96	0	404		13,389	1,385	15,983	3,146	1,359
Mandeville	9734	757	3450	1	170	14649	235	9	621		29,626	3,665	23,985	3,195	1,934
Mobile	128	2	7	0	1	0	2	0	0		140				
Pearl River	1400	63	634	0	75	879	12	132	48		3,243	799	5,292	447	882
Slidell	13361	818	4214	1	163	13771	637	684	1264		34,913	7,699	56,299	5,441	9,228
South Slidell	2338	121	1682	0	60	3289	25	18	199		7,732	5,286	20,905	3,773	4,640
Virtual ¹										140,369	140,369				
Total	60,380	4,101	24,794	4	1,119	67,292	1,892	1,102	5,793	140,369	306,846	27,125	190,762	28,555	27,007

1 - Virtual stats include Overdrive, Tumblebooks, 3M Cloud Library, Rbdigital, Hoopla

CD=CompactDisc; DVD=DigitalVersatileDisc; ILL=InterLibraryLoan; Mag=Magazines
Ppks=Paperbacks; YA=Young Adult

Patrons Registered: 2499



SUMMER READING CHALLENGE 2025

KIDS

Ages 0-11

REGISTRATION PRIZE

- Reading Buddy
- DIY Habitat (while supplies last)*

CHALLENGE

- Reading Log - 720 minutes
- Bingo Card - 5 in a Row
- Bingo Card - Blackout

PRIZES

Rubber Duck or Squish Toy for each challenge

Automatically earn a raffle entry for a chance to win a LEGO set each time you receive a prize!



TEENS

Ages 12-17

REGISTRATION PRIZE

- Friends Book Sale Coupon
- Food Coupon

CHALLENGE

- Reading Log - 720 minutes
- Bingo Challenge

PRIZES

Completion Certificate
Teen webpage Hall of Fame

Complete both challenges for an entry into random drawing for \$50 Gift Card to STP retailer of choice!



ADULTS

Ages 18+

REGISTRATION PRIZE

- Play-Doh

CHALLENGE

- Reading Log - 720 minutes
- Bingo - 4 in a Row
- Bingo - Blackout

PRIZES

Log 720 minutes - entry for a \$50 Gift Card
Row of Bingo - entry for a \$25 Gift Card
Blackout Bingo - entry for a \$50 Gift Card



STTAMMANYLIBRARY.ORG/SUMMERREADING



St. Tammany Parish Library 2025 Spring Budget Amendment

Introduction

This is a brief explanation of the differences in revenue and expenditure forecasts between the 2025 Original Budget and the 2025 Spring Amendment. It is best read alongside the budget spreadsheet and changes on that spreadsheet are highlighted in yellow.

2025 Revenue

In 2025, the St. Tammany Parish Library will operate on revenue of \$13,074,922. We expect an additional \$229,268 in Ad Valorem taxes and \$4,582 in State Revenue Sharing over what we budgeted last year. Each year we typically experience this amount of growth. The Interest Income line has been adjusted upwards based on the trend from the first quarter. The Donations line has been adjusted upwards based on actual receipts. Miscellaneous income was added to show the result of the surplus auction. Overall, there is an increase of \$241,290 in revenue.

2025 Expenditures

We produced the 2025 Budget in July of 2024. This budget amendment adjusts based on how the library ended the 2024 fiscal year, on increased supply costs, and on projects such as the Mandeville renovation. Most of the increases and decreases you will see in the individual budget lines will be due to these activities. Each section in the budget is detailed below with an explanation.

- **Library Salaries** - There are no changes made to this line.
- **Employee Benefits** – The Worker’s Compensation line is adjusted to reflect the rebate we received.
- **Operating Services** – Membership dues is decreased as we consolidated to one human resources membership. Advertising is increased so that we can keep the library in the forefront even after the millage election – we originally had not planned for as much advertising after the election. Signage is reduced as we received donations for signage.
- **Printing, Duplicating, and Binding** – Printing is decreased as we received donations for printing for the election.
- **Utilities** – We have increased the Electricity line as we now have a new outreach building that we have had for a full year and now have a better idea of how much electricity it uses.
- **Communications** – The Voice line now reflects the additional cost of telephones for our mobile library service.
- **Lease Expense** – There are no changes to these lines.

- **Maintenance of Property and Equipment** –The Fuel and Lube line is reduced based on usage. Network utility software line is reduced significantly as the software charges are now spread across the year correctly by the auditor.
- **Maintenance Services** –Termite contract is reduced to match last year’s service cost.
- **Professional Services** –Security is increased as we have had off duty police at South Slidell in the afternoons. We plan on looking into a security guard and will have to revisit this cost at the next amendment. The Proposals Ballot line is reduced based on a new estimate from the Parish Finance Office.
- **Insurance and Claims** – Vehicle Insurance is increased due to higher rates across the state. General Liability is increased due to the Mobile Library being operational.
- **Operating Supplies** –Bank service charges was increased as we purchased more secure checks. Computer Printer Supplies was increased as we heard from the state contract vendor that toner cartridges were going up based on tariffs. Programming supplies of coffee and tea have been increased due to increased prices.
- **Travel and Continuing education** –There are no changes made to these lines.
- **Public Relations/Programming** –No changes are being made to these lines.
- **Non-Book Acquisitions** –The Audio-Visual project for Covington that was planned for last year was put on hold because of the millage election. We have an updated quote and cost of equipment has increased.
- **Library Resource Acquisitions** – Funding from the Video recordings line is being transferred to the Audio recordings line to cover the purchase of Wonderbooks.
- **Long Term Capital Expenditures** – Mandeville Capital – We are proposing sending \$196,000 to the Parish for the Mandeville renovation.

Savings

Any unused money at the end of the year becomes Prior Years’ Operating Revenue. The cash on hand or savings as of December 31, 2024, was \$6,370,231. This figure is less than half of one year’s worth of operating revenue. These savings are dedicated to very specific purposes.

- Operational reserves are needed to run the library until we receive our first significant portion of our millage from the Parish.
- Disaster and emergency funds cover our insurance deductibles and any repairs and clean-up that may be needed in the event of a disaster.
- Dedications for Lacombe, Mandeville, and Slidell furniture projects. These funds are not currently budgeted for the 2025 year.
- Removal of the dedications for Outreach Vehicle and Millage election as these costs are currently part of the operational budget without having to use savings.
- Reserved amounts for health claims and 4th quarter retirement that come due within the first two weeks of each year. This is not budgeted to be spent in 2025.

- A proposed dedication for Capital Contingency as we do not have estimates on the Lacombe or Slidell projects. This would not be budgeted to be spent, but dedicated in case we need it.

This leaves us with a current Unassigned Savings of \$609.

Budget Analysis

We are forecasting an increase in revenue of \$241,290 due primarily to more ad valorem funds as part of our normal growth and an increase in Interest Income and donations. The 2025 Spring Budget Amendment shows a decrease in expenditures of \$6,213.00. The additional revenue plus the reduced cost of the millage election will allow us to put money aside for Mandeville's Capital Project without having to use savings. The budget is balanced with \$82 left unbudgeted.

Conclusion

Each library department was allocated the funds to enable their plans for the 2025 fiscal year. I am confident that we have adequate funds to meet our goals.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kelly LaRocca".

Kelly LaRocca
Director

2025 Spring Amendment

		5/12/2025	2021 Budget Actual	2022 Budget Actual	2023 Budget Actual	2024 Budget Actual	2025 Budget Original	Amendment	2025 Budget Spring Amend
REVENUE									
	405	Ad Valorem Taxes (received)	\$11,300,475.73	11,494,947.88	11,823,150.21	12,474,891.98	\$ 12,500,000	\$ 229,268	\$ 12,729,269
	410	State Revenue Sharing	\$251,600.00	251,600.00	258,515.31	264,302.04	\$ 264,302	\$ 4,582	\$ 268,884
	415	Fines/Fees	\$49,665.48	70,486.86	75,471.23	96,264.58	\$ 99,500	\$ -	\$ 99,500
	416	LA Library Grant - ARPA	\$47,065.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	417	Grants	\$0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	418	LEH Grant	\$2,700.00	2,400.00	0.00	0.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	420	Interest Income	\$1,141.66	38,715.49	185,805.65	198,220.95	\$ 179,000	\$ 5,370	\$ 184,370
	425	Donations	\$9,055.59	33,302.89	61,165.51	23,775.53	\$ 30,000	\$ 2,016	\$ 32,016
	430	Miscellaneous Income	\$0.00	14,840.11	0.21	4,898.55	\$ -	\$ 54	\$ 54
	450	Summer Reading T-shirt Sales	\$1,267.40	1,316.77	2,118.98	1,409.68	\$ 2,120	\$ -	\$ 2,120
		TOTAL REVENUE	\$11,662,970.86	11,907,610.00	12,406,227.10	13,063,763.31	\$ 13,074,922	\$ 241,290	\$ 13,316,212
EXPENDITURES									
LIBRARY ADMINISTRATION									
		PERSONNEL SALARIES							
	503	Library Salaries	\$4,846,642.94	5,005,221.13	5,263,285.57	5,500,854.22	\$ 6,090,000		\$ 6,090,000
		TOTAL	\$4,846,642.94	5,005,221.13	5,263,285.57	5,500,854.22	\$ 6,090,000	\$ -	\$ 6,090,000
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS									
	511	FICA/Medicare Tax	\$104,917.88	111,512.98	119,802.99	121,201.92	\$ 134,000	\$ -	\$ 134,000
	512	Retirement Contributions	\$511,260.09	489,982.62	512,866.56	541,992.08	\$ 577,480		\$ 577,480
	513	Health Insurance/Insurance	\$412,118.33	440,256.79	380,065.68	314,454.71	\$ 390,000		\$ 390,000
	514	Health Trust	\$1,181,116.17	804,090.69	1,395,030.65	1,089,089.98	\$ 1,197,000		\$ 1,197,000
	515	Workers' Compensation/Unemployment Claims	\$6,318.11	31,416.00	14,901.40	21,625.36	\$ 32,000	\$ (6,000)	\$ 26,000
	516	Employee Miscellaneous	\$2,136.60	854.42	600.60	877.18	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ 1,000
		TOTAL	\$2,217,867.18	1,878,113.50	2,423,267.88	2,089,241.23	\$ 2,331,480	\$ (6,000)	\$ 2,325,480
OPERATING SERVICES									
	601	Publication of Legal Notices	\$3,473.25	4,166.54	15,505.20	5,846.27	\$ 13,500		\$ 13,500
	603	Membership Dues	\$5,901.48	7,045.00	7,499.65	5,987.57	\$ 7,500	\$ (1,500)	\$ 6,000
	604	Advertising	\$18,765.19	24,385.41	31,480.57	23,267.44	\$ 36,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 51,000
	607	Signage	\$3,406.00	3,498.62	642.10	1,066.38	\$ 4,000	\$ (2,000)	\$ 2,000
	608	Promotional Production	\$6,664.15	19,902.10	14,898.97	14,941.12	\$ 20,000	\$ -	\$ 20,000
		TOTAL	\$38,210.07	58,997.67	70,026.49	51,108.78	\$ 81,000	\$ 11,500	\$ 92,500
PRINTING, DUPLICATING & BINDING									
	611	Printing	\$8,918.93	11,998.47	12,786.17	12,886.49	\$ 19,500	\$ (4,000)	\$ 15,500
	613	Book Binding	\$0.00	3,840.20	2,544.95	4,437.40	\$ 5,000	\$ -	\$ 5,000
	615	Patron Cards	\$3,380.90	0.00	4,959.70	4,693.52	\$ 5,000	\$ -	\$ 5,000
		TOTAL	\$12,299.83	15,838.67	20,290.82	22,017.41	\$ 29,500	\$ (4,000)	\$ 25,500
UTILITIES									
	621	Electricity	\$237,246.80	316,933.90	284,245.50	260,506.47	\$ 287,220	\$ 6,000	\$ 293,220
	622	Gas	\$2,376.75	2,474.76	2,299.09	2,258.38	\$ 3,250	\$ -	\$ 3,250

2025 Spring Amendment

		5/12/2025	2021 Budget Actual	2022 Budget Actual	2023 Budget Actual	2024 Budget Actual	2025 Budget Original	Amendment	2025 Budget Spring Amend
	623	Water	\$31,790.45	35,776.99	46,073.45	42,332.04	\$ 45,000	\$ -	\$ 45,000
		TOTAL	\$271,414.00	355,185.65	332,618.04	305,096.89	\$ 335,470	\$ 6,000	\$ 341,470
		COMMUNICATIONS							
	625	Postage	\$5,720.78	10,899.72	14,459.39	14,289.76	\$ 21,000	\$ -	\$ 21,000
	626	Voice Line (Regular Phone Service)	\$85,081.73	83,668.72	77,627.21	61,430.89	\$ 44,000	\$ 3,080	\$ 47,080
	627	Data Line (Internet-Network)	\$45,300.00	45,295.00	41,470.26	30,323.34	\$ 31,300	\$ -	\$ 31,300
	630	Courier/Shipping	\$190.93	238.20	515.35	234.15	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ 1,000
		TOTAL	\$136,293.44	140,101.64	134,072.21	106,278.14	\$ 97,300	\$ 3,080	\$ 100,380
		LEASE EXPENSE							
	634	Building	\$300,508.74	310,941.75	318,045.64	319,043.98	\$ 333,000	\$ -	\$ 333,000
	636	Equipment	\$7,750.69	5,096.96	4,970.03	2,742.31	\$ 6,000	\$ -	\$ 6,000
	638	Vehicle	\$0.00	0.00	2,647.96	0.00	\$ 2,750	\$ -	\$ 2,750
		TOTAL	\$308,259.43	316,038.71	325,663.63	321,786.29	\$ 341,750	\$ -	\$ 341,750
		MAINTENANCE OF PROPERTY & EQUIP.							
	641	Custodial & Janitorial	\$207,731.07	208,585.74	212,056.10	213,598.44	\$ 215,000	\$ -	\$ 215,000
	643	Grounds/Lawn Maintenance	\$82,000.00	80,224.00	84,861.00	79,983.07	\$ 85,000	\$ -	\$ 85,000
	645	Maintenance supplies	\$6,978.24	8,973.74	9,972.57	8,638.32	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ 10,000
	652	Fuel and lube	\$23,295.56	39,891.89	32,787.02	25,759.97	\$ 35,000	\$ (2,000)	\$ 33,000
	654	Vehicle repairs	\$6,138.54	3,821.26	14,567.55	9,719.70	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ 10,000
	658	Small Tools & Supplies	\$2,895.48	2,958.04	2,988.96	2,793.53	\$ 3,000	\$ -	\$ 3,000
	660	Office machine and equip. repair	\$1,557.88	974.68	504.92	718.52	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ 1,000
	661	Network Utility Software	\$68,859.01	172,971.54	155,507.60	156,299.73	\$ 228,250	\$ (100,000)	\$ 128,250
	662	Solinet (OCLC) Cost	\$28,249.86	28,026.94	30,649.09	31,820.27	\$ 32,000	\$ -	\$ 32,000
	663	Polaris Maintenance	\$51,939.66	51,978.19	53,635.61	54,914.33	\$ 55,000	\$ -	\$ 55,000
	664	P C Network maintenance and repair	\$7,865.00	6,778.22	5,875.00	9,533.80	\$ 11,500	\$ -	\$ 11,500
	669	Disaster Recovery Costs	\$30,726.50	0.00	0.00	35,708.64	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ 10,000
		TOTAL	\$518,236.80	605,184.24	603,405.42	629,488.32	\$ 695,750	\$ (102,000)	\$ 593,750
		MAINTENANCE SERVICES (Buildings)							
	671	Physical Plant	\$114,819.68	147,981.76	176,994.78	139,939.63	\$ 160,000	\$ -	\$ 160,000
	672	Plumbing, Heating, & Air Conditioning	\$57,605.29	66,491.54	66,494.36	65,834.29	\$ 66,500	\$ -	\$ 66,500
	673	Electrical	\$5,973.18	7,798.31	16,998.60	12,789.32	\$ 13,000	\$ -	\$ 13,000
	674	Sanitation	\$8,370.63	8,957.58	10,415.68	11,999.75	\$ 12,000	\$ -	\$ 12,000
	675	Pest Control	\$6,698.00	6,140.00	7,190.00	7,500.00	\$ 7,550	\$ -	\$ 7,550
	676	Termite Contracts	\$3,228.00	8,009.00	2,915.00	2,945.00	\$ 4,555	\$ (1,555)	\$ 3,000
	678	Carpet Cleaning	\$4,870.00	14,998.98	17,590.00	17,565.00	\$ 18,000	\$ -	\$ 18,000
		TOTAL	\$201,564.78	260,377.17	298,598.42	258,572.99	\$ 281,605	\$ (1,555)	\$ 280,050
		Professional Services							
	680	Payroll Service Fees	\$26,366.03	33,901.31	37,555.26	39,688.95	\$ 38,600	\$ -	\$ 38,600
	682	Legal	\$0.00	0.00	11,869.20	0.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	683	Financial	\$36,384.06	39,023.87	50,811.44	48,317.90	\$ 51,000	\$ -	\$ 51,000
	684	Architectural	\$0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	685	Consultants	\$38,090.24	83,160.48	89,998.23	66,595.62	\$ 40,000	\$ -	\$ 40,000

2025 Spring Amendment

		5/12/2025	2021 Budget Actual	2022 Budget Actual	2023 Budget Actual	2024 Budget Actual	2025 Budget Original	Amendment	2025 Budget Spring Amend
	686	Security	\$6,843.77	7,570.82	13,766.82	7,108.68	\$ 14,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 29,000
	687	Web Design Consultant	\$66,511.44	79,693.35	89,789.97	87,893.52	\$ 94,325	\$ -	\$ 94,325
	688	Movers	\$ -	0.00	15,437.66	16,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	689	Proposals (Ballot)	\$ -	0.00	0.00	0.00	\$ 250,000	\$ (160,000)	\$ 90,000
		TOTAL	\$174,195.54	243,349.83	309,228.58	265,604.67	\$ 487,925	\$ (145,000)	\$ 342,925
		INSURANCE & CLAIMS							
	692	Library Property	\$135,438.08	132,637.21	145,499.86	199,811.83	\$ 200,000	\$ -	\$ 200,000
	694	Flood insurance	\$22,163.00	23,424.00	25,916.00	29,563.00	\$ 29,600	\$ -	\$ 29,600
	696	Vehicle Insurance	\$36,450.00	42,860.00	31,275.36	38,460.00	\$ 42,107	\$ 3,609	\$ 45,716
	698	LBOC Liability	\$4,076.00	4,076.00	1,940.00	4,607.33	\$ 4,676	\$ -	\$ 4,676
	699	Gen Liability	\$20,641.00	15,054.00	25,100.64	25,678.00	\$ 25,680	\$ 1,200	\$ 26,880
		TOTAL	\$218,768.08	218,051.21	229,731.86	298,120.16	\$ 302,063	\$ 4,809	\$ 306,872
		MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES							
		OPERATING SUPPLIES							
	701	Office Supplies	\$18,984.26	31,300.98	32,995.28	32,460.34	\$ 33,000	\$ -	\$ 33,000
	702	Bank Service Charges	\$15,113.22	15,699.20	15,568.17	17,114.58	\$ 16,500	\$ 700	\$ 17,200
	703	Book Preparation Supplies	\$36,803.34	41,739.05	46,688.48	46,999.33	\$ 49,000	\$ -	\$ 49,000
	704	Computer/Printer Supplies	\$61,301.07	61,918.90	78,742.54	85,274.36	\$ 100,000	\$ 12,000	\$ 112,000
	705	Programming Supplies	\$6,672.31	7,887.23	8,387.55	9,455.39	\$ 11,000	\$ 220	\$ 11,220
		TOTAL	\$138,874.20	158,545.36	182,382.02	191,304.00	\$ 209,500	\$ 12,920	\$ 222,420
		TRAVEL & CONTINUING EDUCATION							
	710	Mileage Reimbursement	\$12,592.98	21,899.16	19,509.56	21,862.81	\$ 22,000	\$ -	\$ 22,000
	712	Library In-service Training	\$985.00	11,459.26	8,981.49	4,982.30	\$ 12,000	\$ -	\$ 12,000
	714	Conventions/Seminars	\$29,892.00	64,771.20	33,944.72	19,706.04	\$ 35,000		\$ 35,000
		TOTAL	\$43,469.98	98,129.62	62,435.77	46,551.15	\$ 69,000	\$ -	\$ 69,000
		PUBLIC RELATIONS/PROGRAMMING							
	724	Summer Reading Program	\$26,687.81	45,000.00	44,955.26	44,402.02	\$ 50,000	\$ -	\$ 50,000
	725	Summer Reading T-shirts	\$5,191.17	5,519.64	6,575.59	6,290.63	\$ 8,000	\$ -	\$ 8,000
	726	Adult Programming	\$24,673.99	35,924.44	38,832.18	35,812.40	\$ 39,000	\$ -	\$ 39,000
	727	Young Adult Programming	\$11,434.10	21,189.10	14,994.21	14,888.50	\$ 17,000	\$ -	\$ 17,000
	728	Juvenile Programming	\$11,689.70	34,240.17	19,998.10	12,473.61	\$ 22,500	\$ -	\$ 22,500
	729	LEH Grant	\$2,719.65	601.80	1,800.00	0.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
		TOTAL	\$82,396.42	142,475.15	127,155.34	113,867.16	\$ 136,500	\$ -	\$ 136,500
		CAPITAL OUTLAY							
		NON-BOOK ACQUISITIONS							
	805	Landscaping Additions	\$19,972.80	32,054.76	33,572.29	63,452.06	\$ 46,000	\$ -	\$ 46,000
	810	Improvements to Physical Plant	\$56,136.00	141,084.05	65,986.50	106,889.73	\$ 90,000	\$ -	\$ 90,000
	815	Vehicles	\$0.00	27,841.26	61,475.54	42,632.37	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	820	Office Equipment/Furniture & Shelving	\$104,778.31	124,035.77	89,836.78	55,673.10	\$ 30,000	\$ -	\$ 30,000
	825	Telephones and Telephone System	\$0.00	0.00	0.00	11,896.97	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	831	Leasehold Improvements	\$0.00	0.00	0.00		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	833	ARPA Expense	\$47,064.48	0.00		0.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

2025 Spring Amendment

	5/12/2025	2021 Budget Actual	2022 Budget Actual	2023 Budget Actual	2024 Budget Actual	2025 Budget Original	Amendment	2025 Budget Spring Amend
834	PC Network	\$130,157.31	155,919.15	164,278.65	162,102.66	\$ 133,000	\$ -	\$ 133,000
840	Integrated Library Automation Sys.	\$988.00	0.00	11,229.91	6,726.02	\$ 9,000	\$ -	\$ 9,000
842	Audio/Visual Equipment	\$5,019.59	5,398.49	2,140.00	102,849.90	\$ 20,000	\$ 8,033	\$ 28,033
898	Cameras	\$0.00	0.00	0.00	5,958.00	\$ 3,000	\$ -	\$ 3,000
	TOTAL	\$364,116.49	486,333.48	428,519.67	558,180.81	\$ 331,000	\$ 8,033	\$ 339,033
	LIBRARY RESOURCE ACQUISITIONS							
851	Adult Books	\$192,514.49	214,115.48	220,913.46	204,785.67	\$ 205,000	\$ -	\$ 205,000
852	Lease/Purchase Books	\$18,363.24	18,363.24	18,203.89	10,966.20	\$ 11,400	\$ -	\$ 11,400
853	Juvenile Books	\$102,219.33	103,646.73	98,074.59	104,999.40	\$ 105,000	\$ -	\$ 105,000
855	Young Adult	\$13,311.08	14,017.10	13,206.60	14,504.18	\$ 15,000	\$ -	\$ 15,000
858	Music Recordings	\$3,483.84	4,051.12	2,356.69	2,411.19	\$ 2,500	\$ -	\$ 2,500
861	Adult Reference	\$96,698.32	101,940.22	110,390.92	110,632.40	\$ 111,000	\$ -	\$ 111,000
863	Juvenile Reference	\$37,993.45	42,066.11	44,314.69	44,720.57	\$ 45,000	\$ -	\$ 45,000
872	Periodicals	\$43,597.63	45,613.03	48,892.36	49,425.37	\$ 50,000	\$ -	\$ 50,000
883	Audio Recordings (Books)	\$18,729.03	12,542.97	12,098.64	9,871.58	\$ 10,100	\$ 6,000	\$ 16,100
885	Video Recordings	\$51,627.62	69,242.99	62,285.35	56,244.78	\$ 60,000	\$ (6,000)	\$ 54,000
886	Genealogy	\$4,325.61	6,484.60	4,999.65	6,944.89	\$ 7,000	\$ -	\$ 7,000
887	Digital Microfilm	\$675,766.00	15,000.00	5,867.00	2,500.00	\$ 2,500	\$ -	\$ 2,500
891	Electronic /Downloadable Media	\$338,223.68	470,508.25	440,068.42	419,688.21	\$ 415,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 425,000
892	CDROM/Software	\$100,851.45	83,859.06	64,893.40	61,841.42	\$ 65,000	\$ -	\$ 65,000
893	Internet Database Subscriptions	\$254,173.01	262,310.63	324,585.51	310,127.42	\$ 333,000	\$ -	\$ 333,000
	TOTAL	\$1,951,877.78	1,463,761.53	1,471,151.17	1,409,663.28	\$ 1,437,500	\$ 10,000	\$ 1,447,500
	LONG-TERM CAPITAL EXPENDITURES							
894	Mandeville Capital - Send to Parish	\$0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	\$ -	\$ 196,000	\$ 196,000
895	Outreach FF & E	\$ -	0.00	0.00	15,966.26	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
896	Outreach Vehicle	\$ -	0.00	0.00	120,393.00	\$ 65,000	\$ -	\$ 65,000
897	Outreach Opening Day Collection	\$ -	0.00	0.00	59,977.75	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
898	Causeway FF & E				130,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
899	Covington FF&E and Acoustic work				48,263.70	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	Total	\$ -	0.00	0.00	374,600.71	\$ 65,000	\$ 196,000	\$ 261,000
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$11,524,486.96	11,445,704.56	12,281,832.89	12,542,336.21	\$ 13,322,343	\$ (6,213)	\$ 13,316,130
	SAVINGS / (EXCESS EXPENDITURES)	\$138,483.90	461,905.44	124,394.21	521,427.10	\$ (247,421)	\$ 247,503	\$ 82

	Savings Year End 2024	Difference	Savings projected Year end 2025
Prior Years' Operating Revenue (Savings)	\$ 6,370,231	\$ 82	\$ 6,370,313
Dedications			
Dedicated for Operational Reserves	\$ 2,500,000	\$ -	\$ 2,500,000
Dedicated for Disaster / Emergency Funds	\$ 1,475,000	\$ -	\$ 1,475,000
Dedicated for Mandeville Furniture	\$ 270,000	\$ -	\$ 270,000
Dedicated for Slidell Furniture	\$ 700,000	\$ -	\$ 700,000
Dedication for Lacombe FF&E	\$ 250,000	\$ -	\$ 250,000
Dedication for Outreach Vehicle	\$ 65,000	\$ (65,000)	\$ -
Dedication towards Millage Election	\$ 250,000	\$ (250,000)	\$ -
Reserved to pay 4th Quarter retirement	\$ 249,786	\$ -	\$ 249,786
Reserved to pay Health Claims from runout	\$ 249,919	\$ -	\$ 249,919
Proposed Dedication to Capital Contingency		\$ 675,000	\$ 675,000
Total Dedicated or Reserved	\$ 6,009,704		\$ 6,369,704
Unassigned Savings	\$ 360,527		\$ 609



St. Tammany Parish Library Board of Control
Resolution No. 25-011
FISCAL YEAR 2025 OPERATIONAL BUDGET – SPRING BUDGET AMENDMENT - ADOPTION RESOLUTION
MAY 19th, 2025

SPONSOR: Mrs. Shaw

A resolution amending the St. Tammany Parish Library Operational Budget for the fiscal year 2025 ending December 31, 2025.

WHEREAS, The St. Tammany Parish Library Board of Control has been presented with the Spring Budget Amendment for the Operational Budget for the 2025 fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, notice of that Spring Budget Amendment for the Operational Budget was announced by publication of the May 19th, 2025 Meeting Agenda; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Control has considered the proposed Spring Budget Amendment, and has heard and considered public comment on the proposed budget amendment; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Control has determined that the proposed Spring Budget Amendment accurately represents the amount of money necessary for improving, maintaining, and operating the St. Tammany Parish Library for the 2025 fiscal year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Board of Control of the St. Tammany Parish Library hereby approves and adopts the Spring Budget Amendment, as proposed, and attached hereto, and hereby declares the total amount of the budget as reported, to be necessary for the operation, support, improvement, and maintenance of the Library for fiscal year 2025.

THIS RESOLUTION HAVING BEEN SUBMITTED TO A VOTE, THE VOTE THEREON WAS AS FOLLOWS:

Moved for adoption by _____ and seconded by _____,

YEAS:

NAYS:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

AND THIS RESOLUTION WAS DECLARED DULY ADOPTED ON THIS DAY THE 19th DAY OF MAY 2025 AT A MEETING OF THE ST. TAMMANY PARISH LIBRARY BOARD OF CONTROL, A QUORUM OF THE MEMBERSHIP BEING PRESENT.

Ann Shaw, Board President

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SOUTH SLIDELL (985) 781-0099

Mandeville Renovation

The Mandeville Branch was constructed in 1986 and enlarged in the 1990s. The original improvements planned for this building were:

- Replacing 17-year-old carpet
- Rewiring data lines with Cat6 wiring
- Refreshing/updating the restrooms
- Modification of the front entrance to ensure ADA compatibility, reduce slip hazards, and address flooding at the front entrance

The original estimated cost for this project was \$200,000. The project was designated by the Board and added to the Parish's capital budget in 2022.

As we worked with the architect, we realized we needed to put more funding towards the front entrance to address the flooding issues and removed the carpet replacement from the project. Carpet could be addressed at a later date and was not as essential to the preservation of the building as the flooding issue.

Quotes were accepted by the Parish on February 12th 2025. The lowest quote was \$290,000. In order for this project to move forward, the Board will need to designate more funding and the project will need to go out to bid again.

In speaking with the architect, he felt that interior renovations for the restrooms and data cabling is minor in the overall scheme of project budget, so he didn't know how we could significantly reduce that portion of the work. He also felt that weatherproofing, watertightness, and eliminating the flooding in the entrance foyer was of high importance and so reducing construction costs here would not be a viable option.

It is possible to add more funding to this project and include carpet in the project again. There is about \$49,000 that was not assigned in the capital plan budget due to better than expected interest for 2024. Also, the Library Board had set aside \$250,000 for our millage election cost in the 2025 operational budget just in case we were on the ballot alone. We were on the ballot with the Parish and the constitutional amendments so our cost for being on the March 29th 2025 ballot is significantly reduced. If the Board passes the 2025 Spring Budget Amendment we can send \$196,000 from operations to capital and designate up to an additional \$258,000 to the project without affecting the budgets of any other slated projects. The architect - Vaughan Sollberger – will be at the meeting to answer questions. A resolution designating the additional funding follows this explanation for your consideration.



Library Capital Projects for Renovation and Preservation (updated 05/13/2025)

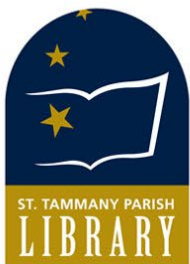
Facility	Type	Budget	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Covington Branch (Complete Jan. 2025)	Exterior renovations	\$ 140,800.00	\$ 7,244.00	\$ -	\$ -			
Mandeville renovation	Recarpet, Cat6 wiring upgrade, update restrooms, front entrance/automatic doors	\$ 458,725.00	\$ 438,725.00	\$ -	\$ -			
Technology upgrade (on-hold)	RFID, new security gates, self check	\$ 946,000.00	\$ 946,000.00	\$ -	\$ -			
Technology upgrade (Complete Feb. 2025)	People counters	\$ 42,000.00	\$ 42,000.00	\$ -				
Technical Services/Maintenance/IT (In progress March 2025)	Elevator Installation for ADA compliance	\$ 225,000.00	\$ 225,000.00	\$ -	\$ -			
Lacombe	Small Branch Replacement	\$ 3,600,000.00	\$ 300,000.00	\$ 3,300,000.00				
Slidell Expansion/Renovation/Roof	Expand Library to Northeast - replace roof and carpet	\$ 3,769,000.00	\$ 300,000.00	\$ 3,469,000.00				
TOTAL		\$ 9,181,525.00	\$ 2,258,969.00	\$ 6,769,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

Currently designated by the LBOC and Budgeted by Parish	
Part of the capital plan but not yet designated by the LBOC or budgeted by the Parish	
Designation being considered this evening.	Current funds
Sending \$196,000 to capital from operations	Potential transfer from operations
Designating a total of 458,725 to the project	Projected interest
	Projected expenditures
	Projected cost allocation plan charges
	Balance before annual transfer
	Ad valorem transfer
	Funds available

\$ 8,789,197.39	\$ 6,766,012.25	\$ 7,012.25	\$ 7,012.25	\$ 7,012.25	\$ 7,012.25
\$ 196,000.00					
\$ 59,783.86	\$ 30,000.00		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
\$ (2,258,969.00)	\$ (6,769,000.00)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
\$ (20,000.00)	\$ (20,000.00)		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
\$ 6,570,012.25	\$ 7,012.25	\$ 7,012.25	\$ 7,012.25	\$ 7,012.25	\$ 7,012.25
\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
\$ 6,766,012.25	\$ 7,012.25	\$ 7,012.25	\$ 7,012.25	\$ 7,012.25	\$ 7,012.25

133,556.00 PY
 20,000.00 PY

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**St. Tammany Parish Library Board of Control
Resolution No. 25-012**

**Resolution Regarding the Designation of Additional Capital Funds for the Mandeville Renovation
May 19th, 2025**

SPONSOR: MRS. SHAW

BE IT RESOLVED that the St. Tammany Parish Library Board of Control designates an additional \$258,725 of capital funds for the renovation of the Mandeville Library for a total of \$458,725;

WHEREAS, the renovation of the Mandeville Library is essential to the maintenance and integrity of the present building;

WHEREAS, the St. Tammany Parish Library has the capital funds to complete this project;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, The Library Board of Control asks the Parish of St. Tammany to move forward with this project.

THIS RESOLUTION HAVING BEEN SUBMITTED TO A VOTE, THE VOTE THEREON WAS AS FOLLOWS:

Moved for adoption by _____ and seconded by _____,

YEAS:

NAYS:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

AND THIS RESOLUTION WAS DECLARED DULY ADOPTED ON THIS DAY, THE 19th DAY OF May 2025, AT A MEETING OF THE ST. TAMMANY PARISH LIBRARY BOARD OF CONTROL, A QUORUM OF THE MEMBERSHIP BEING PRESENT.

Ann Shaw, Board President

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Resolution to Request Maintaining the Newly Established Millage Rate

The Parish Council sets our millage rate each year. We need to notify the Parish Government Finance Office of our request for the millage rate for 2025.

The St. Tammany Parish Library ad valorem levy is 4.35 mils as set by the recent election on March 29th, 2025. This is one whole mill less (or about 3,100,000 less) than what we have been receiving this year.

This reduced millage rate that was confirmed by the voters eliminates our capital funding and reduces money available for our operations slightly. After all deductions for state pension, assessor furniture, and parish cost allocation charges are deducted we will have approximately \$12,695,000 for operations.

It is my recommendation that since the voters recently voted to set our millage, and voted specifically to reduce our millage by 1 mill, that we should receive this rate for the next year and then evaluate rolling down in 2026.

What follows is a resolution to maintain the newly established rate for 2025 for your consideration.



St. Tammany Parish Library Board of Control
Resolution No. 25-013
Resolution to Request Maintaining the Newly Established Millage Rate

May 19th, 2025

SPONSOR: MRS. SHAW

BE IT RESOLVED that the St. Tammany Parish Library Board of Control requests that the St. Tammany Parish Council maintain the Library's newly established millage rate for 2025.

WHEREAS, the St. Tammany Parish Library ad valorem levy is 4.35 mils with a legal maximum of 4.35 mils. This levy was authorized by voters for 2025 through 2040; and

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes that this millage rate was recently set by the successful March 29th 2025 election;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, The Library Board of Control requests that the St. Tammany Parish Council maintain the Library's newly established millage rate of 4.35 mils for 2025.

THIS RESOLUTION HAVING BEEN SUBMITTED TO A VOTE, THE VOTE THEREON WAS AS FOLLOWS:

Moved for adoption by _____ and seconded by _____,

YEAS:

NAYS:

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