

Minutes of the Meeting of the
Lafayette Public Library Board of Control
Finance Committee

September 11, 2019

Lafayette Public Library Board of Control Finance Committee meeting was held in the board room on the 3rd floor of the Main Library at 301 West Congress Street on September 11, 2019. Andrew Duhon, Chairman of the Committee, called the meeting to order at 10:01 AM.

I. Roll Call

Committee Members Present: Andrew Duhon, Chairman of the Board; Joan Wingate

Committee Members Absent: Jolan Jolivette

Other Staff Present: Teresa Elberson, Director; Larry Angelle, Library Operations Manager; Terry Roy, Library Administrator (left 10:32); Danielle Breaux, Director's Executive Secretary; Benton St. Romain, Budget Analyst

Members of the Public: Nora Stelly, President of the Library Board of Control

II. New Business

- A. The Finance Committee will continue discussion on library millages and the proposed rededication of funds and the impact on library's budgets.

Andrew Duhon stated that he thought it pertinent for the Finance Committee to meet prior to the regularly scheduled board meeting.

Ordinance O-159-2019, an ordinance of the Lafayette City-Parish Council providing for millage rate adjustments and roll forward of millage rates not to exceed the prior year's maximum for tax year 2019 in the City of Lafayette and the Parish of Lafayette (Parish Library (2013 – 2022) 2.00 mills) is up for final adoption at the September 17, 2019 City-Parish Council Meeting.

2020 is a reassessment year. If this particular millage is not rolled forward up to the voter approved maximum rate of 2.00 mills, then the library loses the ability to have the millage addressed at a higher rate in future years.

The loss of the third millage, which the library has not opted to go out and try to renew, and the pending item on the October ballot to reallocate \$10M both weigh heavily on the library's financial future.

The Finance Committee was presented with three scenarios projecting 10-year proforma and estimated fund balances. All included a rededication of 10M. Ballot wording projects fund balance at 26M. This is overstated, as it was written prior to a budget revision adopted by the Council moving 8M to North East Regional Construction and 4M to NRL expansion.

Without rolling forward, a deficit will be felt in 2020. 2026 would be the final year that the fund balance would not be in the negative. Expenses are shown to increase in 2023 showing operational and staffing costs for a North East Regional branch.

Andrew Duhon asked what could be done. Teresa Elberson stated that smaller branches would have to be closed immediately, and staff vacancies should not be filled.

Andrew Duhon asked if it would be prudent to scale down the expansion of NRL and the construction of the North East Regional branch. Teresa Elberson stated it was too early to know the logistics for the new branch. There is currently no land, no building plan, and no projected operational cost. Mr. Duhon advocated a small library connected to a warehouse, alleviating the current warehouse lease cost. Teresa Elberson also explained that there is no excess operational cost for the SRL expansion, and minimal impact on budget for the NRL expansion.

Joan Wingate applauded efforts by staff to expend less and try to make more. She stated that it would be sensible to make the information more available to the public.

Andrew Duhon articulated that things that needed to be done to stem the tide of reduction of fund balance included pursuing a new millage in the future if necessary, looking at opportunities for new revenues, closing small branches, trimming expenditures and cutting services, and downsizing plans for NRL and the new North East Regional branch.

Scenario three presented to the board incorporated a roll forward of the millage from 1.84 to 2.00. This will add approximately \$360,000.

It was advised that a letter be drafted to be sent to the City-Parish council. It was also suggested that the Friends and Foundation call their council members to show their support for the roll forward.

Teresa Elberson stated that the library does not want to have to go back to the taxpayers to ask for another tax increase.

Andrew Duhon recommended drafting a memo for review to send to the City-Parish Council.

III. Comments from the Public on any matter not on this agenda

IV. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:55 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Teresa Elberson, Secretary