

Grant Parish Library Board of Control

Minutes of the Meeting on Tuesday, October 29, 2024

The Grant Parish Library Board of Control met on Tuesday, October 29, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. in Colfax. Members present included President Sue Tant; Ronda Shirley; Tracy Geisel; Ex Officio Mike Merrell; and Deidre Fuqua, Secretary. Members not present: Chris Rogers and Ryan Ingles.

President Sue Tant called the meeting to order.

Ms. Tracy Geisel made a motion to amend the agenda to address and discuss the Police Jury. Ms. Ronda Shirley seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Ms. Sue Tant tells the board that the Police Jury would like them to revisit everything from the August 2024 meeting and present it to the new board members.

Approval of June Minutes

The Board reviewed the minutes from June 2024 again. Ms. Ronda Shirley moved to approve the minutes as distributed. Ms. Tracy Giesel provided the second. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of August Director's Report

The Board reviewed the Director's Report from June again. Ms. Tracy Geisel moved to approve the June Director's Report. Ms. Ronda Shirley provided the second. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of August Financial Report

The board reviewed the Financial Report from June again. Ms. Ronda Shirley moved to approve the June Financial Report. Ms. Tracy Geisel provided the second. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of August Statistical Report

The board reviewed the Statistical Report from June again. Ms. Ronda Shirley moved to approve the June Statistical Report. Ms. Tracy Geisel provided the second. Motion carried unanimously.

At the June 2024 meeting, the Library Board requested research and statistics on the Library Director's salary comparable to other parishes in the Public Libraries in Louisiana 2023 Statistical Report. In the August 2024 meeting, the Library Director presented copies of data and statistics to the board. There are 67 library systems in the state of Louisiana. Out of those 67, there are 37 that have the required Master of Library Science degree and are State Board-Certified Directors; the Grant Parish Library Director is ranked 36, at the bottom of the pay scale.

Discussion of Executive Session

Ms. Sue Tant says that the Executive Session at the August 2024 meeting was to discuss personnel, and that upon exiting the Executive Session, it was unanimously voted to give the Library Director a \$5,000 increase to her annual salary effective immediately. Ms. Sue Tant pointed out that the Police Jury claims that the August 2024 meeting was “null and void” because of board member terms being expired. However, she then points out that the law says “a person holding an office, by election or appointed, shall continue to exercise his power and duties until his office is abolished or his successor takes office or the office is vacated.” The revised statute says “every public officer in the state, except in case of impeachment or suspension, shall continue to discharge the duties of his office until his successor is inducted into office”, therefore, even though Ms. Sue Tant and Ms. Judi Womack’s terms were allegedly expired, they were still legally board members and could continue the business of the library. The term is “holding over”. Therefore, everything discussed and approved in the August 2024 meeting was legally acceptable.

Ms. Ronda Shirley moved to approve the \$5,000 increase in annual salary given to the Library Director in August. Ms. Tracy Geisel provided the second. Members in favor: Sue Tant, Ronda Shirley, and Tracy Giesel. Members opposed: Mike Merrell. Motion carried.

Approval of August Minutes

The board reviewed the minutes from August 2024. Ms. Tracy Geisel moved to approve the minutes as distributed. Ms. Ronda Shirley provided the second. Motion carried unanimously.

October Reports

-Financial Reports

The Director provided copies of the financial reports to the board.

- Statistical Reports

The Director provided copies of the statistical reports to the board.

Approval of All Reports

The Board reviewed all documents presented. On a motion by Ms. Ronda Shirley, seconded by Ms. Tracy Geisel, all reports were approved. Motion carried unanimously.

Other Business

Ms. Tracy Geisel moved to discuss the timeclock that the Police Jury has required the library to have according to the minutes of the October 2024 Police Jury meeting. Ms. Ronda Shirley provided the second. Motion carried unanimously.

It is stated that the Police Jury voted to require the library to install thumb print timeclocks at every library location, at the library’s expense. It is also stated that the Library’s Auditor, Mr. Steven Kimball, was consulted and has stated that the Library’s 2024 budget is set and approved,

and that the new law does not apply to the 2024 budget. It is stated that nothing is wrong with the current timeclock system the library has, and that the library doesn't need to spend the money on a new one when the current one is more than efficient according to the Louisiana Legislative Auditor's Statewide Agreed-Upon Procedures. It is decided to go with what the Library Auditor says, and the matter is tabled.

Ms. Sue Tant makes a note that everyone needs to try to be in attendance at the Police Jury meetings on Thursday, November 14th, with the Personnel Meeting being at 3:30 pm and their monthly meeting being at 5:00 pm.

The Director and Library Board thanks Ms. Judi Womack for her service, dedication, commitment, and time on the Library Board.

Ms. Ronda Shirley moved to make the date of the next Library Board meeting to be held on Tuesday, November 19th, at 2:00 pm in Colfax. Ms. Tracy Geisel provided the second. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

Ms. Tracy Geisel moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Ronda Shirley provided the second. Motion carried unanimously.

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Disclaimer: These minutes are not official until adopted by the Grant Parish Library Board at the next meeting.

Minutes by Deidre Fuqua, Secretary of Grant Parish Library Board of Control. To be approved by the Board on Tuesday, 11/19/2024 in Colfax.