



Meeting: May 4, 2020 Breaux Bridge Branch Library 5:00 PM

AGENDA

Call to Order
Invocation
Pledge of Allegiance
Attendance

Regular Business

Approval of Minutes from Meeting, February 3, 2020

Unfinished Business

2020 Library Tax Renewal –Parish President Chester Cedars

New Business

St. Martin Parish Library Reopening Plan

Director's Update

Adjournment





St. Martin Parish Library Board of Control

Meeting: May 4, 2020

Breaux Bridge Branch Library

5:00 PM

The St. Martin Parish Library Board of Control met on May 4, 2020 at 5:00PM at Breaux Bridge Branch Library. Members present were: Tommy Romero, Brenda Hobbs, Freda Harrison, Georgie Blanchard and Cramin Wiltz. Parish President Chester Cedars was also in attendance. Chenita Broussard and Charlene Leblanc were absent.

President Romero called the meeting to order at 5:09PM. Charlar Brew gave the invocation and Georgie Blanchard led the Pledge of Allegiance. Charlar Brew recorded attendance. On a motion by Brenda Hobbs and a seconded by Freda Harrison the minutes of the February 3, 2020 minutes were approved unanimously.

The first agenda item of unfinished business was President Chester Cedars discussion of the 2020 tax millage. See attached report by Parish President Cedars.

Under new business, Director Charlar Brew discussed Phase I plans for reopening the library. It was motioned by Cramin Wiltz and seconded by Georgie Blanchard that employees report to work on Monday, May 18, 2020. Employees will work from 8:00AM -5:00PM. Opening date to the public to be decided after the Governor's Stay at Home announcement on May 15th.

In the Director's update Charlar Brew gave the financial report. Members were given the status of the safety barriers that will be installed by Parish Government at the circulation desk of each Branch Library. Summer Reading plans are underway and will include more virtual programs.

The next scheduled board meeting is to be decided and members will be notified. This will be the meeting about the Tax Millage. Being no further business, Georgie Blanchard moved that meeting be adjourned and Cramin Wiltz seconded, and was approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by,

Charlar P. Brew, Secretary



On May 19, 2020, at a special meeting, you will consider calling for an election for the renewal and rededication of one of the two millages for the library system for the Parish. I am proposing a rededication of one-half of that millage specifically for: the improving and maintenance of public buildings and recreational facilities, programs for the elderly if and as authorized by state law, OR for the payment of mandated expenses associated with the court system.

The bases for this proposal are simple and clear cut. With the recent renovations to our parks and recreational facilities, as well as the numerous other buildings we maintain (courthouse, Section 8, animal shelter, etc), one can anticipate increased maintenance expenses. Moreover, we are mandated to fund the court system (judges, district attorneys, clerk of court, etc) without an independent funding source. Indeed, from our excess video poker revenue we supplement the criminal court fund to the tune of \$266,000 annually. Similarly, the council of aging is allocated over \$33,000 annually.

The rededication of one-half of one of the two library millages will substantially mitigate the budgetary impact of the foregoing WITHOUT COMPROMISE to the operation of the libraries. I have outlined and attach an analysis of the library millage revenue and its operating expenses. Over the last several years, the library has constructed two new facilities (Breaux Bridge and Cecilia) using its fund balance only. Despite these substantial capital outlays, the Library Board's surplus continued to increase. In fact, the current fund balance of the Library is over Ten Million dollars. I submit that upon disclosure of the financial status of the Library system, many would not be inclined to support its renewal especially in today's climate.

I have met on several occasions with the Library's Auditor who also audits the Parish's financials, Jason Akers of Foley and Judell, and the Chairperson and Director of the Library Board. It is agreed that the rededication of the subject millage is a cogent proposition that will not impact the library operations. On Monday, May 4, 2020, I advised the library board of my intentions.

Please review all of the foregoing and should you have any questions, please contact me so that we can discuss this matter.

LIBRARY MILLAGE RENEWAL/REDEDICATION

I. Current Millages Collected by Library System

- A. Millage of 4.0**
 - 1. Schedule to expire in 2024
 - 2. Maximum Authorized rate: 4.21
- B. Millage of 3.65**
 - 1. Scheduled to expire this year
 - 2. Maximum Authorized rate: 3.83
- C. Both millages are for the construction, maintenance, and operation of libraries in the Parish-No significant difference in the propositions**
- D. Total of Current Library Millages 7.65 mills**

II. Comparison to other Parish Millages

A. Combined Library millages	7.65 mills
B. General Parish Alimony	2.270 mills
C. Corporate Criminal (General Fund)	0.990 mills
D. Road Maintenance	3.720 mills
E. Health Unit Maintenance and Operation	2.680 mills
F. Fire Protection Maintenance	5.820 mills
G. Courthouse and Annex Maintenance	2.130 mills
H. Drainage Maintenance	5.270 mills
I. Recreation Maintenance & Operaton	1.050 mills
J. Industrial Park	1.550 mills
K. Sub Road District No. 1	5.820 mills
L. Road District No. 2	11.060 mills
M. ParishWide Sinking Fund	4.410 mills

III. Revenue Generated by Current Library Millages

A. 2019	
1. 3.65 millage	\$1,444,581
2. 4.00 millage	\$1,583,085
3. Total Amount	\$3,027,666

B.	From Audit for FY Ending December 31, 2017	
1.	Revenue for solely the millages	\$2,919,165
2.	Total revenue of library from all sources	\$3,059,883
C.	From Audit for FY Ending December 31, 2018	
1.	Revenue from solely the millages	\$2,898,084
2.	Total revenue of library from all sources	\$3,040,619
III.	Library Operating Expenses	
A.	For Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2017	
1.	Operating Expenses	\$1,804,294
2.	Capital Outlay expenditures (New Cecilia Branch)	\$484,572
3.	Total Expenditures	\$2,288,866
B.	For Year Ending December 31, 2018	
1.	Operating Expenses	\$1,713,439
2.	Capital Outlay expenditures (New Cecilia Branch)	\$1,299,684
3.	Total Expenditures	\$3,013,123
IV.	Excess/Surplus as to only Millage revenue and operating expenses	
A.	For Year Ending 2017	
1.	Millage Revenue only	\$2,919,165
2.	Operating Expenses only	\$1,804,294
3.	Surplus	\$1,114,871
	NOTE: Additional Revenue: >\$100,000	
B.	For Year Ending 2018	
1.	Millage Revenue only	\$2,898,084
2.	Operating Expenses only	\$1,713,439
3.	Surplus	\$1,184,645
	NOTE: Additional Revenue: >\$100,000	
V.	Fund Balances	
A.	2017	\$9,580,922
B.	2018	\$9,608,419
C.	Current Balance:	>\$10,000,000

VI. Tax Propositions

A. Current Proposition:

Shall the Parish of St. Martin, State of Louisiana (the "Parish"), be authorized to continue the levy of a three and eighty-three hundredths (3.83) mills tax on all the property subject to taxation in the Parish (an estimated \$884,050 reasonable expected at this time to be collected from the levy of the tax for an entire year), for a period ten (10) years, beginning with the year 2011 and ending with the year 2020, for the purpose of constructing and/or acquiring furniture, fixtures, buildings, lands and equipment for public libraries in said Parish, including bookmobiles, and for the purpose of the maintenance, improvement and support of public libraries in the Parish?

B. Proposed Proposition:

Shall the Parish of St. Martin, State of Louisiana (the "Parish"), be authorized to extend the levy of a special tax of 3.83 mills (the "Tax") currently authorized to be levied for public library purposes on all the property subject to taxation in the Parish (an estimated \$1,500,000 reasonably expected at this time to be collected from the levy of the tax for an entire year), for an additional ten (10) years, commencing with the year 2021 and ending in 2030, and shall the Parish further be authorized to henceforth rededicate the Tax so that 50% of the proceeds of the Tax received in each year shall be used for the purpose of acquiring, constructing, improving, operating and maintaining public libraries in the Parish, including acquiring furniture, fixtures, buildings, lands vehicles, and equipment therefor, and 50% of the proceeds of the Tax received in each year shall be used for the purpose of acquiring, constructing, improving, operating, and maintaining public buildings and recreational facilities, supporting programs for the elderly in the Parish if and as authorized by state statute, and/or for payment of mandated expenses for the operation of the criminal court system?