

ST. MARTIN PARISH LIBRARY  
BOARD OF CONTROL  
NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

A Special Meeting will be held as follows:

DATE: Monday, July 8, 2024

TIME: 5:00PM

PLACE: St. Martinville Branch Library

AGENDA

Call to Order

Invocation

Pledge of Allegiance

Special Business:

Library Tax Millage Renewal

Adjournment

Charlar P. Brew, Director  
St. Martin Parish Library  
201 Porter Street  
St. Martinville, Louisiana 70582  
337-394-2207

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you need special assistance, please contact Charlar Brew at 337-394-2207 describing the assistance that is necessary.



The St. Martin Parish Library Board of Control held a Special Meeting on Monday, July 8, 2024 at 5:00 P.M. at the St. Martinville Library. President Romero called the meeting to order at 5:00 P.M. Charlene Leblanc gave invocation and Mayor Kevin Kately led the Pledge Allegiance. Members present were Tommy Romero, Mike Formeller, Charlene Leblanc and Georgie Blanchard.

Freda Harrison, Chenita Broussard and Henry Derouselle were absent.

Also in attendance were Parish President Pete Delcambre, Parish Council members Tangie Narcisse, Carla Jean Batiste and David Poirrier; Chip Maraist, Accountant, Mayor Kevin Kately and Alderwoman Yvonne Narcisse of the Village of Parks.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the upcoming Library Millage Renewal that will be on the December 7, 2024 Election Ballot.

Mr. Chip Maraist of Maraist and Maraist Accounting Firm informed the members of the present and future financial forecast of St. Martin Parish Library. The library funds have been stable and has maintained a substantial fund balance for several years. Library finances accumulated over many years in spite of capital improvement projects. Looking at the Library Budget interest rates income has increased. The Library is almost self-funding. Mr. Maraist stated that the library could sustain itself for several years.

Board member Georgie Blanchard stated that the Board members and administration have been very frugal and careful in utilizing taxpayer dollars. Best practices have been used in the operation of the library system and building and maintaining state of the art parish library facilities.

President Romero expressed concern of rising inflation.

Parish President Pete Delcambre provided a Summary of facts of St. Martin Parish Library Funds. He presented a Proposal of the present Library Revenue Millage to renew in December. He presented information on the Governmental Fund Balance Sheet ending December, 2023 the total fund balance was \$13,255,380.00.00.

Parish Present Delcambre is proposing to rededicate 50% of the 3.90 Library Millage that is up for renewal to fund the Parish Jail.

There was concern by Library Board members how would the library tax millage renewal be justified to parish voters.

There was much discussion about the Proposal. The possible funding and affects this may cause in years to come. Mr. Maraist stated that even with the reduction in funds the library will have substantial revenues to operate. Charlar Brew, Director expressed concern of maintaining the present library facilities and future rising cost of upkeep as well as changing technologies.

Mike Formeller discussed a capital outlay-building project for the Parks Branch Library, which has been tabled for many years. Alderwoman Yvonne Narcisse stated a new library had been requested since 2018. The Board members agreed of all the library buildings that Parks need a new up to date facility. President Romero informed the members the present Parks Library Building was donated and there is no official ownership paperwork by Parish Government for the building.





Mayor Kevin Kately informed that land adjacent to Parks City Hall was donated for a library building, Charlar Brew; Director had building plans drawn by Architect Denelle Wrightson several years ago for this site if a decision was made to build a new Library for the Village of Parks.

Mrs. Brew informed the group that consideration also be given to citizens of lower St. Martin Parish. Limited services are being provided. She suggested a possible inter-governmental agreement with the Library system in St. Mary Parish since they are presently providing services to some of our patrons.

Chairperson of the Council Carla Jean Batiste suggested that Board address the Council about these concerns at the August 20, 2024 Council Committee Meeting.

Councilwoman Tangie Narcisse thanked the Board for considering a library and making it a reality in the Village of Parks.

Parish President Delcambre thanked the Board members for coming together to work and develop strategies for the upcoming rededication of the library millage. Joint future meetings are planned.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Charlar P. Brew, Secretary

