

**Minutes of the Evangeline Parish Library Board of Control Meeting  
Special Meeting  
October 17, 2022**

The Evangeline Parish Library Board of Control met on Monday, October 17, 2022, at 12p.m. at the main library on 916 West Main Street, Ville Platte, LA 70586.

Marcantel called the meeting to order, and Lemoine led the Pledge of Allegiance and prayer. Lemoine called roll. Present were Board President Katy Marcantel, Board Members Faye Langley and Sandra Salazar, Police Jury President Bryan Vidrine, Parish Engineer Ronnie Landreneau, Beau Soileau, Information Systems Solutions representative, Friends of the Library Members, Paula Lafleur and Linda Lebsack, Staff Members Suzy Lemoine, Emily Fontenot, and Lisa Godeaux. Absent were Gaynelle Coates and Rella Joseph.

Lemoine proposed an amendment to the agenda regarding changes to the signature record at the bank. Lemoine explained that this proposal stems from changes in library personnel as well as a desire to make the process less cumbersome for all involved. Lemoine suggested changing the signature record to add Emily Fontenot who currently serves as Business Manager/Administrative Assistant/ Circulation Manager and remove Board Member Rella Joseph. Joseph is currently employed and has had to interrupt her schedule to go to the bank to sign checks. Lemoine further suggested requiring only the Board President and one other Board member instead of two as is currently required. Langley moved to approve these changes. Salazar seconded, and the motion carried.

Marcantel asked for public comments on Agenda Items. None were made.

Marcantel presented the motion to approve the postponement of the main library expansion project until a new director is in place. Landreneau explained that he would write a letter stating that it was the Board's desire to do so. He suggested that since the design work was near completion, those involved in the work should finish the design/construction documents. This would allow the Board to shelve the expansion project at a point where the project was ready to go to bid and would also simplify the process of paying those contracted to produce the designs. Salazar moved to approve the motion. Langley seconded, and the motion carried.

Lemoine gave an update on efforts for the purchase of the Fournerat property in Basile to build a new library. She stated that Mr. Fournerat is close to resolving the lien on the

property. Marcantel stated that as soon as the lien is resolved, the land purchase can move forward and the design process for the new Basile Library can begin.

Marcantel opened discussion of the proposed revised lease with Quint West for the use of property located adjacent to the Pine Prairie Library to expand its parking area. Salazar explained the changes to the lease which included specifying the location of the lot and the Library's plans and responsibilities regarding the creation and upkeep of the parking area. Langley moved to accept the revised lease with Quint West for use of property located adjacent to the Pine Prairie branch library. Salazar seconded, and the motion carried.

Marcantel opened discussion of the proposed broadband extension by Conterra Networks from the Pine Prairie area to the Turkey Creek Library. Marcantel asked Beau Soileau, Information Systems Solutions representative, to provide information about the proposal. Soileau explained that the Turkey Creek Library currently has WiFi using microwave wireless technology rather than the more stable, faster fiber-optic technology. Soileau described the bidding process involved. The estimated cost to bring fiber-optic cable to the library would be between \$35,000 and \$40,000, reflecting a 90% discount of estimated \$400,000 through the Erate program, a heavily discounted program provided to the libraries and schools by the federal government. The Library would have the option to amortize the cost over a four-year period. Since Conterra only offers services to businesses, this would not provide residential services. It would, however, allow other companies the opportunity to piggyback on the fiber-optic cable to offer residential services. This could greatly benefit the residents of the Turkey Creek area.

Salazar moved to approve having Soileau begin the bidding process to obtain the fiber broadband extension by the Conterra Networks from the Pine Prairie area to the Turkey Creek Library. The Library would cap its bid at \$40,000 maximum. Langley seconded, and the motion carried.

Vidrine moved to approve the promotion of Mrs. Emily Fontenot to Business Manager/ Circulation Manager, Step 19, 40 hours per week, with a rate of pay of \$16.85 per hour, effective at the beginning of the next pay period. Salazar seconded, and the motion carried.

Salazar moved to approve the purchase of 2 uniform jackets for each staff member at the main library and all branches for an approximate cost of \$750. Langley seconded, and the motion carried.

Vidrine moved to adjourn. Salazar seconded, and the motion carried.

**The next Library Board of Control Meeting will be held December 8, 2022 at 12:00 p.m. at the Ville Platte Library.**