State of Louisiana March 9, 2017

Parish of Lafourche Lockport, Louisiana

The Special Meeting of the Library Board of Control was called to order on Thursday, March 9, 2017 at 5:30pm with the following:

PRESENT: Lonnie Granier

Judy Bazare

Harvey Clement

Talisha Chiquet

Robert Rome

ABSENT: Selma Malcombe

Angelique Torres

Daniel Lorraine, Council Liaison

Also present were Mrs. Laura Sanders, Director, Mrs. Sherry Lucas, Finance Manager, Mrs. Dana Clement, Administrative Assistant, Mr. Paul Chiquet, Branch Administrator, and Parish Councilman Armand Autin.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mrs. Chiquet.

New Business:

1. Discussion and approval of a recommendation to the Parish Council to rename the Gheens Library:

Mr. Granier, Board President, requested Mrs. Bazare, Board Vice-President, to serve as Chair while he proceeds to make a motion. A motion was made by Mr. Granier, seconded by Mr. Clement, to approve the recommendation to rename the Gheens Branch and open a discussion. Mrs. Sanders handed out a copy of the March 14, 2017 Parish Council Agenda Item 19, Proposed Ordinance Naming The Gheens Library The “Lindel Toups Memorial Library” sponsored by Councilman Daniel Lorraine. She also presented a list of alternative parish buildings in the Gheens area that could be considered for renaming. Mr. Rome referred to the handout from the previous meeting showing the guidelines for naming buildings used by other library systems and noted that none of the guidelines supported the proposed renaming. Mr. Chiquet spoke about his many years of friendship with Mr. Toups and said there was no disputing his contribution to the Gheens community. But they disagreed on the libraries. Mr. Toups expressed to him and publicly many times that he did not see the value in the library system and felt libraries were overfunded and that money would be better spent on drainage and other projects like the jail. Mr. Chiquet recounted the library system’s history, stating Mr. Gary Dominique was responsible for getting the Gheens Library, all the project work, all the land, all the leases were through the efforts of Mr. Dominique, not Mr. Toups. Mr. Toups voted for a Gheens Library, because it was the right thing for the Gheens community not because he was a library supporter. Mr. Chiquet went on to say that Mr. Dominique was also responsible for getting the Gheens Recreation Center, and the walking trail, and as a result the Park Pavilion and Children’s play area were named after Mr. Dominique. Mr. Toups did much to support the people of Gheens, but he has no history of supporting the library. Mr. Chiquet also stated Mr. Toups had a good heart, he had good intentions for his community but he just didn’t believe in the library and did not even have a library card. Mr. Chiquet also stated how he felt it was offensive to Mr. Toups and his family to name something after him that he was so adamantly against. There are other buildings that are a better choice, such as the Mathews Complex or the new jail. He did deserve respect for his years of service. There are so many other options, just not the library. Councilman Autin told the Board he was here to show his full support on whatever the Board decides tonight. Mr. Granier stated the Board appreciated his support. Mr. Clement noted that any renaming would cause the library to incur the costs of new signage even if this wasn’t something the Board wanted. Mr. Rome mentioned the Daily Comet article that ran Tuesday, March 7, stating it was clear Mr. Toups was not a friend of the Library, so I have a hard time being asked for us to name the library after him.

Mr. Rome called for question, to end the discussion. Upon a motion made by Mr. Lonnie Granier, seconded by Mr. Harvey Clement, on a recommendation to the Parish Council to rename the Gheens Library, Vice-President Mrs. Judy Bazare called for a roll call vote, whereas a vote yes was in favor of the recommendation and a vote no was in opposition to the recommendation. The motion failed 0-5-2.

1. Discussion and approval of replacing outdated routers:

Mrs. Sanders explained that we are applying for eRate rebates on our internet access for the service period beginning July 1. Through our initial conversations with service providers, we will be in need of updated routers for our ten locations. Because we must submit items to the parish three weeks in advance to be on a Council agenda, we will be cutting it too close to wait until our regular April Board meeting to discuss this purchase. Once we take delivery of the routers, it takes at least 60 days to get these scheduled for installation, testing, and activation. Any service not in place by July1 could result in reduced eRate funding.

Mr. Rome made a motion, seconded by Mr. Clement, to accept the low bid from SHI International Corp. in the amount of $16,535.44 for the purchase of new routers to replace outdated ones. A roll call vote was taken: Mr. Granier yes, Mrs. Bazare yes, Mr. Clement yes, Mr. Rome yes, Mrs. Chiquet yes, Mrs. Malcombe absent, and Mrs. Torres absent. The motion passed 5-0-2.

Mr. Granier made a motion to go into Executive Session, seconded by Mrs. Bazare. The motion passed unanimously. The tape was turned off at 6:13pm, and the room cleared.

At 6:22pm the tape was turned back on. A motion was made by Mr. Clement, seconded by Mr. Rome to come out of Executive Session. The motion passed unanimously.

With no further business to discuss, a motion for adjournment was made by Mr. Clement, seconded by Mrs. Bazare, and carried unanimously. The Library Board of Control Special Meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:23pm.