

**Rapides Parish Library
Finance Committee of the Board of Control
November 19, 2024**

Minutes

A meeting of the Finance Committee of the Rapides Parish Library Board of Control was held at the Westside Regional Library located at 5416 Provine Place, Alexandria, LA.

Present were Ms. June Arrington (Chair), Ms. Le’Anza Jordan, Ms. Dana Cox, Library Director Celise Reech-Harper, Business Manager Stacy Dubrock, and Administrative Assistant Kendra Bertrand. Board member Mr. Morris Taft Thomas joined the meeting at 2:50 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 2:33 p.m.

Agenda

Ms. Cox motioned to approve the agenda. Ms. Jordan seconded, and the motion passed.

2025 Budget

Ms. Dubrock presented the proposed 2025 budget to the committee. Ad valorem revenue is expected to be higher than last year, but due to fluctuating interest rates, the budget was drafted conservatively. Expected expenses for 2025 include a 6% increase in insurance costs as well as higher costs for goods and services, and slight increases in spending for popular programs and staff training. The full cost of the library’s Internet was included without e-rate adjustment, though the Library anticipates e-rate refunds. Branch income from copies and faxes, as well as payments for lost items, is expected to remain higher than previous years.

Ms. Cox motioned for the Finance Committee to recommend the proposed 2025 Budget to the full Library Board of Control for public hearing at the December regular meeting and that the Library Director prepare and release two notices to *The Town Talk* as public notice. Ms. Jordan seconded, and the motion passed.

With no further business before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 3:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by

Celise Reech-Harper
Secretary

June Arrington
Committee Chair