Council (Persons to Udderess) in wurner);

2010-0111

PETITION TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

St. Charles Parish Council Chairman P. O. Box 302 Hahnville, LA 70057 (985) 783-5000

Today's Date: 3/15/2010

MAR 15 2010

PARISH COUNCIL

Dear Chairman:

Please place my name to address the Council on:

DATE:

(*see specific auidelines on reverse and refer to

Parish Charter-Article VII., Sec. I.)

DOCUMENTS, IF ANY

NAME:

MAILING ADDRESS:

PHONE:

SIGNATURE:

Dear Constituent:

Thank you for your active participation. Your views and comments will be considered by the Council in making our decisions. The Council has a considerable amount of business to conduct in a limited amount of time, therefore, please note the following items that are expected of you:

- The Home Rule Charter provides for citizens to address the Council. It makes no provision for initiating debate, discussion, or question and answer sessions with Councilmembers or Administration Officials. Your right is also guaranteed to examine public documents as you prepare your presentation. Should you have any questions for Councilmembers and/or Department Heads as you prepare, please forward such inquiries to the Council Office to insure a timely response. Should you wish to speak to any Official or Department personally, a complete list of contact information will be furnished at your request.
- Please be brief and limit your comments to the specific subject matter on which you have requested to address the Council.
- Please forward supporting documents to the Council Secretary for distribution to the Parish Council before your scheduled appearance in order for the Council to prepare themselves, if necessary.
- Upon completion of your allotted time to address the Council, please respect the time given to Councilmembers to respond to your comments by not interrupting or interjecting remarks.
- Slanderous remarks and comments will not be tolerated. If slanderous remarks or comments are made, your opportunity to address the Council will end, regardless of the remaining time left to address the Council.
- Repetitious comments and subject matter will be strictly limited.

A confirmation letter will follow when your name is placed on the agenda.

Sincerely. COUNCIL CHAIRMAN



St. Charles Parish

LARRY COCHRAN

COUNCILMAN, DISTRICT V

MEMORANDUM

DATE:

MARCH 2, 2010

TO:

PARISH COUNCIL

MR. V.J. ST. PIERRE, JR. PARISH PRESIDENT

MR. TIMOTHY J. VIAL

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

FROM:

LARRY COCHRAN

COUNCILMAN, DISTRICT V

I am writing in regards to the Memo from Parish President St. Pierre advising the Parish Council that the Paradis Library is being advertised for bids. I have reviewed the plans, and Chenevert Architects has done a great job with the design. I supported the donation of the property from the School Board and I am in total support of the project. The citizens of District IV will have a first class facility they can be proud of.

However, my concern is with the current Library millage. As you know, the Library millage expires in 2010 and must be renewed by the voters to be levied in 2011. The District Councilman, in whose District the library will be located, has already taken out newspaper advertisements stating he "...can not support or ask the Public to support the millage renewed". If the Parish Council is not in full support of renewing the millage to ensure that our Public Library System remains operational, why would we want to build a new Library with no funding to maintain or staff it?

Let me again clearly state, I am in full support of the Paradis Library and the renewal of the millage required to maintain and staff our entire Parish Library System. I have very serious concerns with building a new facility with the possibility of not being able to open its doors.

Office

St. Charles Parish P.O. Box 302 Hahnville, LA 70057 (985) 783-5000 Fax: (985) 783-2067

http://www.stcharlesparish-la.gov

LC/BJT:ag

Residence

114 Oaklawn Ridge St. Rose, LA 70087 Pt one: (504) 305-0179 Fax: (504) 305-1194

Cell: (504) 415-3630 Email: lcoch an@st-charles.la.us





SEARCH FOR:

Catalog

GO

MOST POPULAR PAGES

SEARCH TIPS SITEMA

Responsibilities of Library Board of Control Members

In the operation of the East Baton Rouge Parish Library system, trustees have three responsibilities: statutory, practical, and ethical.

Statutory

All authority for operation of the library resides in the board, in its legal and official capacity. Each Library Board of Control member is charged by legislative action with broad powers. The duties and powers contained in the statutes are described below.

Library Laws of Louisiana RS 25:215

§215. Duties and powers of the board; employment of librarian, assistants, and other employees

A. The board of control shall meet and organize immediately after their appointment and annually thereafter and elect a president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer, whose duties shall be those customarily exercised by such officers. The board of control shall have authority to establish rules and regulations for its own government and that of the library not inconsistent with law; to select and employ a librarian, and, upon the recommendation and approval of the latter, to employ assistant librarians and other employees and fix their salaries and compensation; provided that no contract of employment shall be made for a longer period than four years nor with any person as head librarian who has not been certified by the State Board of Library Examiners as provided in R.S. 25:222. The head librarian may be appointed or elected secretary of the board of control.

Practical¹

The Library Board of Control members:

- 1. Employ and /or dismiss the library director
- 2. Establish written policy
- Secure adequate funding
- Approve budget
- 5. Provide and maintain:
 - 1. facilities

Home

About the Library

Locations & Hours

.Renew Books/View Account

Library Catalog

Community Information

Online Databases

Useful Web Sites

Plad A Cook Quok

Kids' Stuff

Just For Teens

People Connection

Business & Career Connection

RCB Career Center

Our African American

Legacy

RSS Feeds

get a library card?

GO

ASK A QUESTION ONLINE



E-Reference Service

EMAIL NOTIFICATION SERVICE

Join EBRPL's mailing list..



- 2. resources
- 3. services
- 6. Help develop and approve the library's plan of service
- 7. Help promote and advocate for the library
- 8. Participate in opportunities for continuing education

Ethical Responsibility²

Ethical Statement for Public Library Trustees



Trustees in the capacity of trust upon them, shall observe ethical standards with absolute truth, integrity, and honor.

Trustees must avoid situations in which personal interests might be served or financial benefits gained at the expense of library users, colleagues, or the situation.

It is incumbent upon any trustee to disqualify himself/herself immediately whenever the appearance of a conflict of interest exists.

Trustees must distinguish clearly in their actions and statements between their personal philosophies and attitudes and those of the institution, acknowledging the formal position of the board even if they personally disagree.

A trustee must respect the confidential nature of library business while being aware of and in compliance with applicable laws governing freedom of information.

Trustees must be prepared to support to the fullest the efforts of librarians in resisting censorship of library materials by groups or individuals.

Trustees who accept library board responsibilities are expected to perform all of the functions of library trustees.

¹Source: <u>Handbook for Louisiana Library Trustees</u>, 1996, LA State Library

Adopted by the Board of Directors of the American Library Trustee Association; July 1985; Adopted by the Board of Directors of the Public Library Association, July 1985; Amended by the Board of Directors of the American Library Trustee Association, July 1988; Approval of the amendment by the Board of Directors of the Public Library Association, January 1989.

Back to the Library Board of Control

7711 Goodwood Bivd. Baton Rouge, LA 70806 (225) 231-3750

Contact Us *Feedback *Report a Broken Link

ADA * FAC * Press Room * City of Baton Rouge Website

East Regional Library Timeline

Library Board of Control commissions Casserta/Carrol Architects to develop feasibility Study for East Bank library service. Study recommends addition of 6,728 - 10,706 sf to existing building, for a total of 18,522 -22,500 sf, at a cost estimate of \$629,000 to \$799,500

***** 2000

Library Board of Control hires Library Building Consultant Richard E. Thompson to assist in writing East and St. Rose building programs.

Library holds public and staff focus groups to formulate both building programs.

2001

(August) St. Rose Building contract is let; (October) Construction begins.

2003 (March) St. Rose building is completed.

> (May) QBS Review Panel selects CSRS as the firm to provide architectural services to the St. Charles Parish Library for the East Regional Library Expansion Project.

(May) CSRS now operating under the name Chenevert Architects

(July) Building program for East Regional Expansion list probable cost for 26,350sf at \$3,333,805.75 expressed in 2003 dollars.

(October) Building program for East Regional Expansion list probable cost for 26,350sf at \$3,346,032 expressed in 2003 dollars.

(November) options for temporary quarters for East Regional Library during the construction phase are explored; contact is made with real estate agent for BP's Plantation Business Park. BP responds with proposal for donation of property to be used for construction of a new East Regional Library building. Library Board of Control resolves to pursue the option of the land donation as opposed to closing the building during the construction at the existing site (estimated at 18 months to two years).

(December) Proposal to BP for Library building to include administrative offices; building size is increased to 30,000.

Mary des Bordres (2008)

A LIBERRY BUILDING PROGRAM

FOR THE

ST. ROSE BRANCH OF THE ST. CHARLES PARTSH LIBRARY

St. Rose, Louisiana October 23, 2000

UNCORRECTED FIRST DRAFT

THE ST. ROSE COMMUNITY

The St. Charles Parish Library serves the entire parish, which is divided in two by the Mississippi River. On the East Bank of the river, there is currently 1) a regional library (East Regional Library) in Destrehan, midway between the upriver and downriver boundaries of the parish, and 2) a branch in Norco, which is located in the upriver portion of the Parish. St. Rose is located at the downriver end of the east bank of the parish.

A detailed look at St. Charles Parish is provided in the document titled "Building Program Notes" prepared by Margaret Wilhite, see Appendix A.

The St. Rose community is exceedingly diverse. There is industry, a business park, and a variety of residential components (apartments, consominiums, single-family residences). The boundaries of community were recently formalized; see Appendix B. Estimated population figures for the St. Rose Community for the years 1990, 1996 and 2017 respectively are 6,325, 7,594 and 9,190 respectively. New residential subdivisions are currently under construction. The East Regional Library and the Norco branch, even with the current bookmobile supplement to service, have been determined to be inadequate to service the St. Rose community effectively, a conclusion supported by the December 1997 Feasibility Study conducted by Caserta/Carroll Architects, P.C., acapy of relevant portions of which participated as a Appendix B,

a:str3aa.wp

INTRODUCTION

Any consideration of a building program for the St. Rose Branch of the St. Charles Parish Library must take into account many factors, the most basic of which is the St. Charles Parish Library Board of Control's determination to provide a full-service library of appropriate scale to meet a wide variety of library needs in a multibranch system with two regional libraries.

This will be a new branch library, for which a feasibility study was performed in December 1997 and an appropriate site purchased subsequently.

The Board has been addressing the need for a new facility on the East Bank for the past three and one-half years.

The Board is committed to assuming a leadership role in providing library service to the residents of the St. Rose community.

The Board wishes the library to meet or exceed the minimum standards for library service as developed by the Public Library Section of the Louisiana Library Association.

In order to meet the goal stated immediately above, and having concluded that this goal cannot be achieved without a new branch library, the Board has authorized the preparation of a building program for a new library which will make it possible to accomplish the Board's objective. This program is meant to provide guidelines that will enable the architect to proceed. It is not an attempt to do the architect's work for the architect, but rather the statement of a problem, or series of inter-connected problems, which the architect must solve in the best possible way. The square footages that are used throughout the building program are ESTIMATES ONLY. What must govern in the end is the space required to house the furniture, equipment and collections listed, and this will be determined in substantial part by the configuration of the new library.

The Board is aware of its legal obligation to see that the new library conforms to all applicable codes (safety, zoning, etc.), and expects the architect to make certain that the new building does so conform.

The Board is aware of its moral and legal obligation to see that both the state and federal requirements regarding access for persons with disabilities are met with the completion of a new building, and expects the architect to make certain that the new building does in fact conform with these requirements.

a:str2.wp

TABLE OF CONTENTS

```
1 Introduction
2 St. Rose Community
3 The Parish Library and the Proposed St. Rose Branch
4 Statement of Library Building Program
5 Schedule of Building Elements
 6 Entrance (Vestibule)
 7 Public Washrooms
 8 Lobby
 9 Staff, Workroom
10 Adult Services:
                    Catalog Area
                    New Materials Browsing Area
11
                    Periodicals
12
                    Large Print Book Area
13
                    Reference Area
14
                    Pamphlet Files
15
                    Circulating Collection
16
                       (Fiction and Non-Fiction)
                    Audio-Visual Area
17
                    Patron Computer Area
18
                    Study Rooms
19
                    Young Adult Browsing Area
                    Catalog Area
21 Youth Services:
                    Children's Area
22
                    Children's Activity Center
23
24 Public Meeting Room
25 Branch Supervisor's Office
26 Staff Lounge
27 Staff Washroom
28 Staff Entrance/Receiving Room
29 Storage Room
30 Telecommunications Room
31 Mechanical Room
32 Tabulation of Space Requirements
33 Summary of Reading and Study Seating Spaces
```

35 Appendices

34 Notes to the Architect

a:straw1.wp



ST. CHARLES PARISH LIBRAR

November 13, 2003

TO:

Library Board

FROM: Mary des Bordes

Enclosed is a copy of the revised agenda for our November 18th meeting. In addition, I'm sending for your review the four options for library service to the Destrehan community during the construction of the East Regional expansion. I strongly recommend that you not share this information with any non-Board member before the meeting. Option IV, in particular, is in the most preliminary stage, and widespread knowledge could complicate the process.

I look forward to seeing you next Tuesday.

St. Charles Parish Library Board of Control Meeting November 18, 2003 6:00 p.m.

AGENDA

- 1. Call to Order, Prayer, & Pledge
- 2. Approval of Minutes October 13, 2003
- 3. Attendance Report
- 4. Librarian's Report
- x 5. Public Comment Mrs. Nancy Wilson
 - 6. New Business
 - A. Options for library service to the Destrehan community during the construction of the East Regional expansion
 - B. 2004 Budget Hearing and Adoption
 - C. Approval of 2004 holiday schedule
 - 6. Other Business
 - 7. Adjournment

Desposes



OPTIONS FOR LIBRARY SERVICE TO THE DESTREHAN COMMUNITY DURING THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE EAST REGIONAL EXPANSION



X

Receive donated land in Plantation Business Park and build new building on that site

- · East Regional would stay open during construction of new building
- New building would be designed and built on new site
- Library would move into new facility when complete
- Possibly expand building scope (e.g., move administrative offices and Tech Services into new building)
- Old building/property could be sold to pay for construction costs for East Expansion or for possible new facility in Paradis/Des Allemands/Bayou Gauche area

Costs:

Additional architectural fees for re-design: unknown
Moving materials and furniture into building at close of construction: \$6,500-\$14,000
*Possibly expanded building size: (3,000sf @\$135/sf): \$405,000

Total: minimum \$6,300 - \$14,000 + or \$411,500 - \$419,000 + architectural fees

Advantages

New building could be re-designed without constraints of existing building Major cost savings

Ability to expand building (either immediately or in future)

Tie-ins with Destrehan Plantation for publicity, etc., in future

Possible move of Administration/Tech Services would free up space and provide more parking in lot at West Regional

Additional funds for long range building plans Transition easier on community

Disadvantages

Possible fall-through of the donation Donor could offer site well off River Rd. with low visibility Delay in service at new building over expanded building Not in residential area/loss of walk—in use Isolation of patrons/staff leaving the building after dark Destrehan Festival, etc., parking disruption The barrier of I-310

SERVICE POLICY

Recognizing that the St. Charles Parish Library was established by ordinance of the parish governing body in conformity with state law covering public libraries, and funded by public funds authorized by the parish electorate together with certain state public funds allocated for public library use; and recognizing further that the Library Board of Control was and is appointed by the parish governing body with delegated powers to oversee and control the management of the library in the capacity of a trustee body to serve and protect the interests of the citizens of the parish, it shall be the policy of the Board with respect to the following:

1. Service

Provide courteous service of excellent quality patterned to satisfy the needs and interests of the people of the parish as assessed by the Board and/or the library administration, and to reflect the expressed desires and comments of the people. This service should show balance between the various interests served based upon the use and relative cost practicalities.

2. Finance

Spend monies as needed, within the limits of the revenues and funds available, to provide for the expressed level of service and personnel and books-material requirements, in a sound and prudent business-like manner.

Request periodic tax millage approvals based upon the projected needs of the library for the millage period.

Request annual tax assessments within the authorized millage based upon the ensuing year's projected needs, and to maintain about a 12 month operating surplus at the year's end, exclusive of taxes assessed and collected during the year.

3. Personnel

Employ and/or cause to be employed qualified people at all levels in the organization and require high quality job performance.

Compensate employees on the basis of merit within the various job classification and rate structures.

Maintain rate structures to reflect balance with those of other public employees in jobs requiring approximately the same level of skill and responsibility. Comparisons with other public employees should be made with parish employees first, state employees second, and other local nonpublic employees third.

General salary increases should approximate those of other public employees in a comparative fashion considering other parish employees first, state employees second, and other nonpublic employees third.

Benefits to employees, other than salary should equal or approximate those of other parish employees.

4. Books-Materials

Books and non-book materials added to the collection will normally be selected by the library administration from lists provided by various sources—such as the Louisiana





FACILITIES

The perfect library facility is a combination of many things; outstanding and varied collections; the latest technology; good signage and lighting; comfortable furnishings, a warm and welcoming staff, recognizable "zones" for different uses and users; and, an economical, yet appealing design of which the public can be proud.

Standards that help attain the ideal library facility are based on the library's mission statement and service goals, as well as every librarian's desire to have collections and facilities that are used and enjoyed. In order to achieve this goal, a needs assessment, followed by a written five-year plan, should be developed and utilized. Based on these documents, a written Building Program that takes into consideration the needs and desires of the public should be formulated for each construction project.

It is the population served that ultimately determines the size and style library required. The size and diversity of this population affect collection size and types, amount and type of technology desired, planned programming, seating, meeting room space necessary, etc.

Points to Consider

- Examine and utilize policies that address all the safety and security issues concerning protection and prevention of loss of structures and collections, as well as the safety of personnel and patrons while in library facilities and incorporate these requirements into the design of all buildings.
- Provide library service on sites that are heavily traveled, convenient, visible and secure. Utilize sites that are easily accessed by private or public transportation with enough acreage available for expansion of both building and parking.
- Design facilities that are appealing, attractive, comfortable and functional.
- Consider simple shapes that are easier to fill, easier to use, and easier to build.
- Consider sight lines for patron orientation and staff supervision.
- Consider terrain factors such as flood zones, elevations, and drainage in the site selection process.
- Design facilities that are flexible, considering possible changes in use, service and patron traffic patterns, and the accommodation of collections that expand.
- Provide display areas for art, new books, public awareness materials, etc.
- Plan adequate electrical, data and telephone connections for current and future needs. Designate a room for telecommunication hardware use.
- Provide adequate electrical outlets to accommodate library users with laptops.
- Provide study rooms and meeting room space.
- Consider staff comfort as well as comfort to users. For example, consider rubber flooring for the area behind the circulation desk.



The Times-Picagune

Paradis library depends on tax Renewal needed to build it, director says

Wednesday, July 02, 2008 By Matt Scallan River Parishes bureau

There isn't likely to be a new St. Charles Parish library in the Paradis/Des Allemands area until voters decide in 2010 whether to renew the 4.9-mill property tax that supports the system, Library Director Mary desBordes said Monday,

"I don't see how we could move ahead with a project of that size until we know whether we will have the revenue to support it," desBordes said.

The property tax generates about \$4 million per year for the system, and must be renewed every 10 years. In 2006, the library system spent about \$3 million on operations.

The difference, combined with interest on the money, allowed the library system to pay \$1.25 million cash for a new St. Rose branch in 2003, and for the recently awarded \$8.4 million contract to build a new East Regional Library in Destrehan.

Parish Councilman Paul Hogan, whose district includes Bayou Gauche, Des Allemands and Paradis said Tuesday that he hopes that controversy over the decision to build a new East Regional Library rather than refurbish the current building won't derail the renewal effort.

Hogan, who took office in January, has been a harsh critic of that decision, saying it took too much money away from the Paradis branch and caused delays in construction. "If they say they are going to do something here the residents are going to have to be sure that they aren't going to go off and build a library somewhere else," he said. "If they do that, I'll support it."

Library board members are looking at two publicly owned sites for a Paradis branch: One owned by the Sunset Drainage District, which is located behind R.J. Vial Elementary School, the other the former site of Paradis Elementary School.

Sunset Drainage District President Eric Matherne said the district's board members would like to donate the 271-acre tract to the parish. He said the district's board of commissioners will discuss tentative plans for the property at their July 10 meeting at the Parish Courthouse in Hahnville. The meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. and also will be broadcast on Cox Communications Channel 6.

St. Charles schools spokeswoman Rochelle Cancienne-Touchard said Tuesday that she was not aware of any formal discussions between the school system and library officials about the Paradis Elementary site on Old Spanish Trail.

Matt Scallan can be reached at mscallan@timespicayune.com

April 2, 2009

Carolyn W. Tregre, President, St. Charles Parish Library Board of Control

My initial comment was that the Board can bring library service to District 4 for a cost of \$1 million using the Cadow St. Property in or they can accomplish the same objective by spending \$4 million for a purpose-built building in the Paradis area. I do not think it possible to justify the additional expense as the library service, which is the most important issue, would be the same regardless of how much the building costs.

Additionally, bringing library service to the area in the Cadow St. building should be more immediately accomplished as the time to bring a new building to fruition will take several years.

Meeting

Residents of , and , the St. Charles Parish Library cares what you think.

The want for a library in your community.

is asking what you

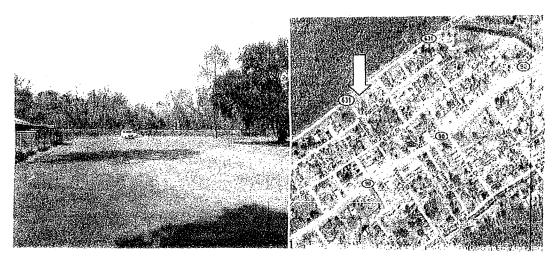
The library board wants to know if you prefer:

- An existing being turned into a library, to open within approximately one year to eighteen months
- A new library building, to open within approximately four to six years

J. B Martin School November 18, 2008 at 6:30 p.m.

105 Lakewood Drive • Luling, LA 70070 (985) 785-8471 • http://www.stcharles.lib.la.us

Old Paradis Elementary School Site, Paradis



- Property of School Board; would sell at appraised value (not available)
- 1.18 acres
- · Vacant, but with utilities
- Could build a facility (including parking) up to 14,000 sf on the site
- Advisory Base Flood Elevation: +5

Advantages

Off busy highway
Would get purpose-built facility

Disadvantages

Low visibility
Delay of opening due to building time needed
Not as convenient for school visits (need to
cross busy highway)

Cost: Appraised value of property, and approximately \$3-5,000,000 for building and equipment (in 2008 dollars)

Time to implement: approximately 4-6 years.

Requirements for implementation:

Building

Stick built -

Program

Architect

Plan

Contractor

- Parking
- Landscaping
- Furniture and equipment
- Collection
- Staff

Modular –

Program

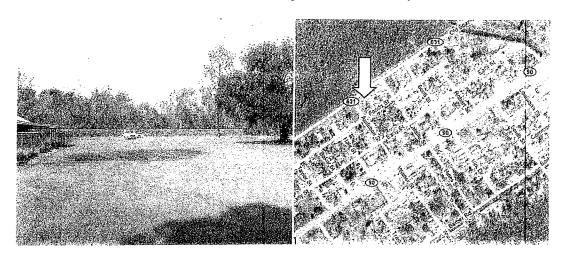
Plan

Vendor

Installer



Old Paradis Elementary School Site, Paradis



- Property of School Board; possibility of 99 year lease
- 1.18 acres
- Vacant, but with utilities
- Could build a facility (including parking) 5000 sf on the site
- Advisory Base Flood Elevation: +5

	Ad	van	ta	ges
--	----	-----	----	-----

Off busy highway

Would get purpose-built facility

Disadvantages

Low visibility

Delay of opening due to building time needed Not as convenient for school visits (need to cross busy highway)

Cost: lease costs (minimal anticipated), and approximately \$1-1.5,000,000 for building and equipment

Time to implement: approximately 18 -24 months.

Requirements for implementation:

Building

Stick built -

Program

Architect

Plan

Contractor

- Parking
- Landscaping
- Furniture and equipment
- Collection
- Staff

Modular -

Program Plan

Vendor

Installer

ara Sims-Touchard, Paradis, LA

- former teacher of St. Charles Parish
- thanked the Library Board for their uncompensated time
- agrees that an existing building is logical
- · mentioned expenses that our parish could be facing in the future, such as levees
- new building in East was pushed back, and back, and back
- if we put our resources into a new building we may not see it for years
- our area has a strong French heritage and a library could show and strengthen that heritage

Paul Hogan

- · commented that the Library is funded totally separate from the parish
- · the library is funded by millage
- levee construction would not have any connection to library funds or a millage for the library
- library millage in 2010 is a renewal only, not a new millage

Anne Candies

asked if we would have to wait until after a millage to build or renovate

Mary desBordes, Library Director - response to Anne Candies' question

- the library does not have existing funds to build a new library, this would have to wait on a millage
- we would not have to wait on a millage to buy an existing building and renovate, the library does have enough money to buy and renovate an existing building now
- the newspaper stated that constructing a new library would cost about \$3 million, but that is in today's dollars
- a brand new library would have to wait until after the millage to even begin
- a special millage before 2010 would cost \$10,000.000 and that would have to be factored in the cost of a new building
- the Library Board wants to know the feelings of the community, are the feelings strongest in waiting for a new library or purchasing an existing building and renovating
- a purpose built-building is not out of the question
- the Library Board keeps track of the usage of all of the libraries in the parish

Tina Montz, Paradis, LA

- past educator
- asked if it would be 2 years before a new library could be considered due to a millage renewal

issues addressed in the meeting in Parish President V. J. St. Pierre's office on March 24, 2009:

- The perception that every library in the Parish must be in a purpose-built facility is Unjustified. Effective library service is not dependent on a purpose-built facility. A public library is not a building. It is the collection of materials, resources, and staff available to the public. The majority of library patrons do not care about walls; they care about services. The Parish Library has been offering service in non-purpose built facilities for many years with no reduction of quality.
- If the Parish Library is forced to commit to providing one or more new buildings in the next ten years, the result would be inflexibility in response to other, and perhaps far more important, unforeseen needs. These might include rebuilding following storms; major changes in technologies and concomitant demand from the public; population, industry, or other shifts in the parish; and/or unanticipated reductions in millage revenues.
- Replacement of an existing library facility is made for more reasons than an increase in population. Other factors might include the need for new technologies or services not feasible in the existing building, changes in the neighborhood of the facility (e.g., heavy industrialization), facility deterioration, or shifts in population density. There is no reason to assume that purchase of the property desired by the Library Board and installation of library service in that facility necessarily precludes any future purpose-built facility in that area.

 Should a millage renewal attempt be made this October, the effect of the current economic situation on the voters may result in non-passage. A commitment/decision made on this basis is therefore insecure. In addition, the cost to the Library of a millage election is not insubstantial and should not be made frivolously.

Mary desBordes
Library Director