

Colfax, LA
April 3, 2025

The Police Jury of the Parish of Grant, State of Louisiana, met in emergency session at its meeting place, the Grant Parish Police Jury Meeting Room, 200 Main Street, Colfax, Louisiana, on Wednesday, April 2, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.

The following members were present:

Mr. Mark Ball, Mr. Cephas Bowie Jr., Mr. Brandon DuBois, Mr. Johnny Jamison, Mr. Arnold Murrell, Mr. Winston Roberts, Mr. Roy Edwards, and Mr. Mike Merrell

The following members were absent:

None

Motion by Mr. Brandon DuBois, seconded by Mr. Johnny Jamison to open the meeting to public comments on agenda items. Motion carried unanimously.

No discussions were brought forth

Mr. Lee Willis, CPA with Rozier McKay & Willis discussed the findings of the 2023 and 2024 Grant Parish Library audit. The official report will be published once finalized and submitted to the Louisiana Legislative Auditor.

Motion by Mr. Mark Ball, seconded by Mr. Brandon DuBois to amend the agenda to include a motion to enter executive session to discuss legal matters pertaining to audit findings with Sheriff Steven McCain and Mrs. Bonita Armour, Grant Parish Police Jury legal counsel. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Mr. Brandon DuBois, seconded by Mr. Johnny Jamison to enter executive session to discuss legal matters pertaining to audit findings with Sheriff Steven McCain and Mrs. Bonita Armour, Grant Parish Police Jury legal counsel. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Mr. Winston Roberts, seconded by Mr. Mike Merrell to return to regular session. Motion carried unanimously.

Sheriff Steven McCain discussed concerns of criminal activity that were brought forth from the 2024 audit of the Grant Parish Library. An investigation of the claims lead to the arrest of Deidre Fuqua, Director of the Grant Parish Library for one (1) count of computer tampering, three (3) counts of filing or maintaining false public records, three (3) counts of injuring public records, one (1) count of public payroll fraud, and two (2) counts of malfeasance in office.

Motion by Mr. Winston Roberts, seconded by Mr. Arnold Murrell to amend the agenda to include a motion to recommend the immediate removal of all members of the Grant Parish Library Board of Control including Ms. Sue Tant, Ms. Judi Womack, Ms. Rhonda Shirley, Mr. Ryan Ingles, Ms. Esther Green, Mr. Mike Merrell, and one vacant spot. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Mr. Brandon DuBois, seconded by Mr. Cephas Bowie, Jr. to recommend the immediate removal of all members of the Grant Parish Library Board of Control including Ms. Sue Tant, Ms. Judi Womack, Ms. Rhonda Shirley, Mr. Ryan Ingles, Ms. Esther Green, Mr. Mike Merrell, and one vacant spot. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Mr. Brandon DuBois, seconded by Mr. Johnny Jamison to amend the agenda to include a motion to appoint replacement members with jurors to serve as the new Grant Parish Library Board of Control. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Mr. Brandon DuBois, seconded by Mr. Johnny Jamison to appoint replacement members with jurors including, Mr. Roy Edwards, Mr. Winston Roberts, Mr. Mike Merrell, Mr. Brandon DuBois, Mr. Johnny Jamison, Mr. Cephas Bowie, Jr., and Mr. Mark Ball to the Grant Parish Library Board of Control. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Mr. Cephas Bowie, Jr., seconded by Mr. Arnold Murrell to amend the agenda to include a motion to suspend Ms. Deidre C. Fuqua of her duties as the Director of the Grant

Parish Library and the Secretary-Treasurer for the Grant Parish Library Board of Control effective immediately. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Mr. Arnold Murrell, seconded by Mr. Cephas Bowie, Jr. to suspend Ms. Deidre C. Fuqua of her duties as the Director of the Grant Parish Library and the Secretary-Treasurer for the Grant Parish Library Board of Control. She is to immediately return all credit cards, keys, cell phones, equipment, documents, and any other items in her possession that belong to the parish/library. She is to refrain from entering any Grant Parish Library facilities and from contacting any banks or vendors regarding library business. She is to be served her notice letter through her attorney, Mr. Eugene Cicardo, who is in attendance. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Mr. Arnold Murrell, seconded by Mr. Winston Roberts to amend the agenda to include a motion to set the next meeting of the Grant Parish Library Board of Control for Friday, April 4, 2025 at 5:00 pm at the Grant Parish Courthouse in the meeting room of the Grant Parish Police Jury. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Mr. Winston Roberts, seconded by Mr. Arnold Murrell to set the next meeting of the Grant Parish Library Board of Control for Friday, April 4, 2025 at 5:00 pm at the Grant Parish Courthouse in the meeting room of the Grant Parish Police Jury. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Mr. Winston Roberts, seconded by Mr. Arnold Murrell to amend the agenda to include a motion to appoint the Grant Parish Police Jury Parish Manager, Sissy Pace, as interim director of the Grant Parish Library effective immediately. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Mr. Winston Roberts, seconded by Mr. Arnold Murrell to appoint the Grant Parish Police Jury Parish Manager, Sissy Pace, as interim director of the Grant Parish Library effective immediately. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Mr. Winston Roberts, seconded by Mr. Johnny Jamison to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

After the meeting, Mr. Cicardo refused to deliver the notification to his client stating that he represents her in the criminal matter and this notification would be a civil matter. The letter will be sent via email this evening with delivery and read receipt.

Disclaimer: These minutes are not official until adopted by the jury at the next meeting.