



CITY OF ST. MARYS, GEORGIA
September 27, 2010

BUDGET WORKSHOP
4:00 p.m.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
6:00 p.m.

AGENDA

- I. CALL TO ORDER**
- II. INVOCATION:** *Councilmember Bird*
- III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- IV. ROLL CALL** **QUORUM: YES X NO**
- V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** *September 10, 2010 Special City Council Meeting Minutes*
September 13, 2010 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes

PRESENTATION:

BUSINESS RECOGNITION

PROCLAMATION: *Joint Health & Safety Fair*

PROCLAMATION & POWERPOINT PRESENTATION: *Miracle League*

THREE RIVERS REGIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEM: *Linda Kean – Library Director and Fred Mastin – Vice Chairman of Library Board*

ANNOUNCEMENT OF BOARD TERM VACANCIES

- 1. Ethics Board (Vacancy) Bar Association Appointment**
- 2. Senior Advisor Committee (Johnson) Vacancy**
- 3. Citizens “City-Wide Beautification” Advisory Board (Johnson) Vacancy**
- 4. Airport Authority (Starline) Vacancy**
- 5. St Marys River Management Committee (Camden County resident and land owner or employee of a land owner on the St Marys or its tributaries) Vacancy**

BOARD APPOINTMENT:

- 1. Ready Street Steering Committee**

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

VI. GRANTING AUDIENCE TO THE PUBLIC:

VII. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. **PERSONNEL POLICY AMENDMENT:** *Appeals (Consideration to Postpone)*
Council direction to advertise the amendment for 14-days for employee comments
- B. **ALCOHOL ORDINANCE:** *Amendment.....(Consideration to Postpone)...TAB "A"*
Council consideration to review and approve the revised Alcohol Ordinance

VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. **CVB BOARD'S REQUEST:** *Mayor DeLoughy*
- B. **CEDAR OAK CAFÉ:** *Alcohol License Extension.....TAB "B"*
Cedar Oak Café requests approval to change the 2010 Alcohol License to a 2011 license
- C. **2010 MILLAGE RATE:** *Advertisement of the Five-Year Tax History....TAB "C"*
To advertise for the millage
- D. **MUNICIPAL COURT 2010 CALENDAR:** *Date Change.....TAB "D"*
Judge Loeffler would like to change the court date from December 17, 2010 to December 10, 2010.
- E. **BUDGET ORDINANCE:** *Amendment.....TAB "E"*
Reduce the General Fund Budget for fiscal year 2011

IX. REPORT OF AUTHORITIES, BOARDS, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES:

- A. **PROPERTY COMMITTEE REPORT**
 - 1. Facility Fees
 - 2. Land Bank
 - 3. Dog Park
- B. **WATER & SEWER COMMITTEE REPORT**
 - 1. W.H. Gross Construction
- C. **CITY CALENDAR:** *City Clerk*

X. REPORT OF MAYOR:

XI. REPORT OF CITY MANAGER:

XII. GRANTING AUDIENCE TO THE PUBLIC

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

XIV. ADJOURNMENT:

**CITY OF ST. MARYS, GEORGIA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
September 27, 2010
6:00 p.m.**

MINUTES

The Mayor and City Council for the City of St. Marys, Georgia met for its regular City Council session on Monday, September 27, 2010 in the Council Chamber at City Hall.

PRESENT WERE:

Mayor William DeLoughy
Councilmember Greg Bird
Councilmember Deborah Hase
Councilmember John Morrissey
Councilmember Keith Post
Councilmember Sidney Howell
Councilmember Chuck Trader

CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:

William Shanahan, City Manager
Gary Moore, City Attorney
Roger Weaver, Planning Director
Tim Hatch, Police Chief
Bobby Marr, Public Works Director
Robby Horton, Fire Chief
Jennifer Brown, Finance Director
Alyce Thornhill, Economic Dev. Director
Jeffrey Juiliano, Sergeant-At-Arms
Anita Scoles, Sergeant-At-Arms

Mayor DeLoughy announced the passing of St. Marys' citizen Cookie Johnson last week and extended his condolences to the family.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor DeLoughy called the City Council Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Councilmember Bird gave the invocation. Mayor DeLoughy led the audience in the pledge of allegiance. Council roll call indicated a quorum of council members present for the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

September 10, 2010 Special Called City Council Meeting Minutes

Councilmember Bird moved to approve the September 10, 2010 special City Council meeting minutes. Councilmember Howell seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

September 13, 2010 *Regular City Council Meeting Minutes*

Councilmember Hase moved to approve the September 13, 2010 regular City Council meeting minutes. Councilmember Howell seconded the motion. Councilmember Morrissey requested the addition of the phrase *\$3.2 million over the length of the bond* in the minutes.

Councilmember Hase moved to add the correction. Councilmember Howell seconded the motion. Voting was recorded as follows:

FOR
Councilmember Bird
Councilmember Hase
Councilmember Howell
Councilmember Morrissey
Councilmember Trader

ABSTAIN
Councilmember Post

PRESENTATION:

BUSINESS RECOGNITION (POSTPONED)

PROCLAMATION: *Joint Health & Safety Fair*

Mayor DeLoughy read the proclamation and urged all employees to recognize and participate in this observance, including attendance at the Annual Employee Health & Safety Fair on October 27, 2010, from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM, a focused opportunity to learn about healthy lifestyle habits & safety tips to practice now and in the future.

PROCLAMATION & POWERPOINT PRESENTATION: *Miracle League*

Mayor DeLoughy read the proclamation recognizing the efforts of The Miracle League of Camden County to ensure that "Every Child Deserves a Chance to Play Baseball". Mr. Norris presented a video of the Miracle League's mission.

THREE RIVERS REGIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEM: *Linda Kean – Library Director and Fred Mastin – Vice Chairman of Library Board*

Ms. Kean presented information on the Board of Regents Maintenance of Effort (MOE) requirements for state aid to public library systems. The Public Library State Grant Funds section 4.4 reads, "Local support for the current year shall be equal to or more than the preceding year". Failure to comply would result in the loss of eligibility for both state and federal assistance for public libraries in the Three Rivers Regional Library System. Ms. Kean's explained the importance of local government's role in supporting the St. Marys Public Library. A copy of a letter from the state librarian outlining the requirements is attached as part of the minutes.

Mr. Mastin reported that the library will reopen on October 4, 2010 at its permanent location on Herb Baurer Drive. A grand opening ceremony will be announced at a later date. Mr. Mastin explained funding sources for the renovation, contracting with local businesses, the Navy and Marine Corp's assistance moving to the temporary and permanent buildings, and partnering with Friends of the Library to support programs and materials. He also described the current trend at the library being a refuge and haven for everyone during tough economic times because of the loss of work, and elimination of internet service, leisure activities and accessibility to office equipment. Mr. Mastin addressed the loss of staff, adding 3-4 hours on Saturday and keeping fines and fees in the library instead of turning it over to the City.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF BOARD TERM VACANCIES

- 1. Ethics Board** (*Vacancy Bar Association Appointment*)
- 2. Senior Advisor Committee** (*Johnson Vacancy*)
- 3. Citizens "City-Wide Beautification" Advisory Board** (*Johnson Vacancy*)
- 4. Airport Authority** (*Starline Vacancy*)
- 5. St Marys River Management Committee** (*Camden County resident and land owner or employee of a land owner on the St Marys or its tributaries*)*Vacancy*

Mayor DeLoughy announced the vacancies on the Ethics Board; Senior Advisory Committee; Citizens City-Wide Beautification Advisory Board; Airport Authority and St. Marys River Management Committee.

BOARD APPOINTMENT:

1. Ready Street Steering Committee

Council discussed the formation of the committee and the requests to appoint members of Tourism and Historic Preservation. Following much discussion, Councilmember Howell made a motion to add Historical and Visitors Bureau to the board. Councilmember Bird seconded the motion.

Council continued to discuss the proposed appointments, the process of forming the committee and sub-committees and the committee's roles. Following much discussion, voting was recorded as follows:

<u>FOR</u>	<u>OPPOSED</u>
Councilmember Bird	Councilmember Hase
Councilmember Howell	Councilmember Morrissey
	Councilmember Post
	Councilmember Trader

Councilmember Bird moved to add Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) to the board. Councilmember Howell seconded the motion. Voting was recorded as follows:

<u>FOR</u>	<u>OPPOSED</u>
Councilmember Bird	Councilmember Hase
Councilmember Howell	Councilmember Morrissey
Councilmember Trader	Councilmember Post
Mayor DeLoughy (tie breaker)	

Councilmember Bird moved to add Historic Preservation. Councilmember Howell seconded the motion.

Voting was recorded as follows:

FOR
Councilmember Bird
Councilmember Howell

OPPOSED
Councilmember Hase
Councilmember Morrissey
Councilmember Post
Councilmember Trader

Councilmember Hase moved to nominate Mary Neff to the board.
Councilmember Bird moved to nominate Barbara Ryan to the board.

Councilmember Trader moved to defer the nomination and to advertise for those on the CVB to apply for the position at the next meeting, following discussion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Mayor DeLoughy announced the candidates and categories for council members to vote. Voting was recorded as follows:

At-large Citizen

Charlotte Bartzack: None

John Crowder: None

*Jim Gant: Councilmember's Morrissey, Post and Trader

Robert Nutter: Councilmember's Bird and Howell

Nancy Stasins: Councilmember Hase

At-large Business Owner

*Philip Jones: Councilmember's Bird, Hase and Howell (Mayor DeLoughy – tie breaker)

Carrie Paulk-Gay: Councilmember's Morrissey, Post and Trader

At-large Downtown Merchant

*Teddie Lockhart: Councilmember's Hase, Howell, Morrissey, Post and Trader

At-large Bank/Financial Industry

*Craig Root: Councilmember's Hase, Morrissey, Post and Trader

At-large Councilmember

* Councilmember Morrissey: Councilmember's Hase, Post and Trader

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Councilmember Post moved to approve the agenda and Item "F" Name the Senior Center.
Councilmember Hase seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

GRANTING AUDIENCE TO THE PUBLIC:

Jessica Felley, 107 Partridge Lane, president Humane Society: Spoke in support of the dog park.

Burt James, 209 Dillingham Street: Made a complaint about being harassed by the police.

Bob Nutter, 521 Moeckel Place: Spoke about the CVB appointment, Steering Committee and Ethics Board vacancy.

Barbara Ryan, 711 Mildred Street: Spoke in support of the replacement of Keith Post on CVB and in opposition of his Steering Committee vote.

Alex Kearn, 902 Ann Street: Paid tribute to Cookie Johnson's dedication to St. Marys.

Joe Lucent, 821 River View Drive East: Addressed his request for a 2011 Alcohol License

Doug Cooper, 814 River View Drive East: Spoke in support of the Alcohol Ordinance and Police Department

John Fasio, 208 Wheeler Street: Addressed the hostility over water service at the waterfront

Tom Cyphers, 206 West Bryant Street: Spoke in opposition of removing the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) boundaries at the Ready Street Property

Gayla Brandon, 105 Osborne Street: Spoke in opposition of the bait shop renter's negative letter to the editor

Dave Stark, boater: Spoke about being unwelcomed in St. Marys after reading the letter to the editor

Philip Jones, 201 Catherine Street: Spoke about the lack of control and rules at the waterfront and supports the Yacht Clubs proposed rules

Councilmember Hase requested a review of the rules and proposal from the City Manager

Walt Natzic, 209 Osprey Circle: Requested the removal of the Land Bank from the agenda

Mayor DeLoughy called a short break at 7:55 p.m., and called the meeting back to order at 8:04 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS:

- A. **PERSONNEL POLICY AMENDMENT:** *Appeals (Consideration to Postpone)*
Council direction to advertise the amendment for 14-days for employee comments

Councilmember Post made a motion to postpone the Personnel Policy Amendment. Councilmember Trader seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

B. ALCOHOL ORDINANCE: Amendment (Consideration to Postpone)
Council consideration to review and approve the revised Alcohol Ordinance

Councilmember Hase moved to postpone due to the attorney sending it back to the committee for review of his changes. Councilmember Post seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. CVB BOARD'S REQUEST: Mayor DeLoughy

Mayor DeLoughy stated that a request was made several times by the CVB Board to have Council's current representative withdrawn from his position. To remove someone from this position there is a need for cause.

Councilmember Trader made a motion to keep Keith in that position on the CVB Board. Councilmember Hase seconded the motion. Councilmember Bird asked Councilmember Post how he felt. Councilmember Post stated he would not resign, and it was not within the CVB's authority to remove members. He was appointed and confirmed by Council and will continue to serve unless Council decides otherwise. Councilmember Trader commented that people were chosen to be on the boards and authorities by their best skill set for the position. Keith has many good contacts in the state level, and is committed to promoting the City. There is always going to be dissension of some type when groups come together, and the fact of the matter is, not everyone will agree on everything. He believed there were facts that might not have come out. If everyone fully understood all the facts that existed, may be things would not have occurred the way they have occurred. The meeting that was held when Mr. Post was in affect chastised, and was allowed to go on for 55 minutes, was ridiculous. It is the responsibility of those who lead the meeting to make sure comments were made and taken, but are general comments that do not allow attacks. Council does not allow it at meetings, and it is proper decorum. In light of all those factors, Councilmember Trader continues to support Mr. Post in his position. He will be a good asset. Differences will get worked out because everyone seems to have the same ultimate long term goal, to market the City. As time goes on, things will begin to work in the right direction. He knows Mr. Post is committed to working in that regard.

Councilmember Post further commented that immediately after being sworn in to office he attended Mayor's Day in Atlanta. The next day he flew to Atlanta to attend State Tourism Day at the capital, which he paid all costs. Mr. Post stated "He believes in this city, he believes in this community, and he felt it was important that we have representation there. Additionally, he attended the Governor's Conference in Athens along with the CVB chair at no cost to the City". Councilmember Post announced that he will be the interim director of the Submarine Museum due to the untimely and unfortunate death of John Kraus. Councilmember Post further commented that he works with many groups and organizations. He has worked hard to promote St. Marys' whenever he goes to Washington, Atlanta and across the state. Councilmember Post also addressed Ms. Ryan's comments about the Steering Committee, which was voted on a

month ago, that was the time to change it, not tonight. The CVB was asked to support the project but it declined to do so.

Councilmember Hase commented it was the Mayor's appointment. She asked for the record if the Mayor wanted to change the appointment. The Mayor responded no, there were no grounds. Following further discussion, voting was recorded as follows:

<u>FOR</u>	<u>OPPOSED</u>	<u>ABSTAINED</u>
Councilmember Hase	Councilmember Bird	Councilmember Post
Councilmember Morrissey	Councilmember Howell	
Councilmember Trader		

B. CEDAR OAK CAFÉ: Alcohol License Extension

Cedar Oak Café requests approval to change the 2010 Alcohol License to a 2011 license for the sale of beer and wine.

Councilmember Bird moved to approve. Councilmember Morrissey seconded the motion. Councilmember Morrissey questioned whether any sort of precedence was being made. The City Manager stated that all the requirements were followed. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

C. 2010 MILLAGE RATE: Advertisement of the Five-Year Tax History

To advertise for the millage

Councilmember Post made a motion to advertise the five-year history and proposed millage rate at 5.351. Councilmember Trader seconded the motion. Council discussed removing the words "*tentatively adopted*" and removing "*roll-back*" as recommended by the City Attorney. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

D. MUNICIPAL COURT 2010 CALENDAR: Date Change

Judge Loeffler would like to change the court date from December 17, 2010 to December 10, 2010.

Councilmember Bird moved to approve. Councilmember Hase seconded the motion. Councilmember Hase questioned how hard it was to change court dates and why it was being changed. The Court Administrator stated that it is being changed early to avoid changing dates plus with the loss of her assistant, she will be in Athens on that date. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

E. BUDGET ORDINANCE: Amendment

Reduce the General Fund Budget for fiscal year 2011 in the amount of \$321,154 to reflect the reduction of tax revenue due to the decrease in the 2010 property tax digest.

Councilmember Bird moved to decrease the budget \$321,154 as recommended by the City Manager. Councilmember Trader seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

F. NAME THE SENIOR CENTER: *Cookie Johnson (ADDED)*

Councilmember Morrissey made a motion that the City investigate naming the City's Senior Center after Cookie Johnson. Councilmember Trader seconded the motion. Councilmember Trader stated that it was a wonderful gesture because Ms. Johnson had committed a large part of her life to the City. The motion will allow the City to include the Senior Advisory Committee in the process. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

REPORT OF AUTHORITIES, BOARDS, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES:

A. PROPERTY COMMITTEE REPORT

1. Facility Fees

Councilmember Howell reported on the Committee's discussion on the fees for the waterfront park, marsh walk and pavilion downtown. The Committee recommended accepting the fees as proposed.

Councilmember Howell made a motion to accept the fees as presented. Councilmember Hase seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

2. Land Bank

Councilmember Howell stated that the Committee did not recommend the Land Bank at this time because more information was needed.

Councilmember Trader made a motion to defer considering the land bank. Councilmember Hase seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

3. Dog Park

Councilmember Howell reported that the DDA Director requested permission to discuss with Public Service Authority (PSA) a proposed dog park. The area identified is at the pond adjacent to the aquatic center and St. Marys Library.

Councilmember Bird moved to authorize Alyce Thornhill to contact the PSA in reference to a dog park. Councilmember Post seconded the motion. Councilmember Hase requested that a report be brought back to Council. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

B. WATER & SEWER COMMITTEE REPORT
1. W.H. Gross Construction

Councilmember Morrissey reported that the Committee met to discuss a waiver by WH Gross Construction on aid to construction fees. By the end of the meeting there was a determination for opportunity to review how many additional bathrooms were being added opposed to netting out. Mr. Gross and the Planning Director decided to go back to review the issues with a possible resolution in the Planning Department.

CALENDAR: City Clerk

The City Clerk read the calendar of meetings for the remainder of September and first two weeks of October.

REPORT OF MAYOR:

- October 23, 2010 – Attended the Bond hearing, and the Bond signing is scheduled on October 29th. There was a \$3,000,000 decrease in the total outstanding. The City was forced into raising water rates and keeping us current in order to make payments when due on the principle.
- October 25, 2010 – Met with Admiral Brunner who was pleased with the City's interaction with the Navy and St. Marys welcoming them as part of the community. Mayor DeLoughy thanked the Navy for their help with the library.
- October 4, 2010 – The St. Marys Library reopening
- Met with the CVB Chair and Vice Chair last week to discuss issues to include: their mission, working independently, accomplishments and budget and staff management. The CVB reports to the City by Council's representative who is a voting member of the board. To continue to have a good working relationship and to generate revenue from bed taxes.

REPORT OF CITY MANAGER:

- The Fire, Police and Public Works Departments were thanked for their outstanding work during this weekend's festival. They were the first to arrive and the last to leave. The Departments were commended for working well together.
- The Public Works Department was thanked for completing a water pipe repair within a couple hours on Friday at Douglas Drive.
- Briefed Council that the HVAC contract could not be extended for multiple years without putting it out to bid because it was already approved.

GRANTING AUDIENCE TO THE PUBLIC:

Jo Beth Bird, 107 Salt Grass Trace: Expressed concerns about how Trolley's closure was handled.

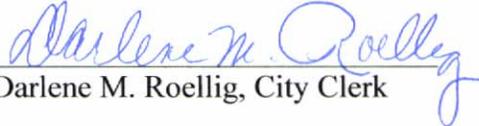
EXECUTIVE SESSION:

There was no "Executive Session" at this time.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilmember Hase made a motion for adjournment. Councilmember Trader seconded the motion. Mayor DeLoughy declared the meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Darlene M. Roellig, City Clerk



June 4, 2010

Linda Kean, Director
Three Rivers Regional Library System
208 Gloucester St.
Brunswick GA 31520

Dear Ms. Kean:

This letter will serve as a confirmation of our recent communication concerning the maintenance of effort requirement (MOE) for state aid to public library systems. There are a number of requirements that a public library system must meet in order to qualify for state aid to public libraries, including MOE. Non-compliance with any of these requirements would make the library system ineligible to receive state aid.

Specifically, Board of Regents Requirements for Public Library State Grant Funds section 4.4 reads, "Local support for the current year shall be equal to or more than the preceding year". Local support is defined as funding and on-behalf services provided to library system boards of trustees by local governmental agencies with taxing authority. In the State of Georgia, local governmental agencies with taxing authority include counties, municipalities, and boards of education.

Failure to comply would result in the loss of eligibility for both state and federal assistance for public libraries in the Three Rivers Regional Library System. The library system would not be eligible for the formula driven programs of state-aid to public libraries, including several state-paid positions for the library system; the materials grant; and the system services grant. The total of these grants for Three Rivers Library System in FY10 is approximately \$891,530.60.

In addition, the library system would lose several benefits that are paid by the State of Georgia on behalf of the Three Rivers Regional Library System. These other benefits would include participation in GOLD, GALILEO, PINES, the provision of data lines and internet service, and other state sponsored activities. For FY10, the value of the OCLC Group Services (cataloging, interlibrary loan, and union listing of serials) for the Three Rivers Regional Library System is approximately \$30,000.00. Currently, the state spends approximately \$1.5 million annually for the GALILEO databases; these databases will not be available to libraries not qualified for state aid. All of these expenses would need to be funded with local dollars if these services were not provided by the State of Georgia

Also, failure to meet MOE requirements means that the library system would not be eligible for federal grants from this agency. This would include Vacation Reading Program grants and materials that are made available free to all public libraries in the state, as well as the LSTA competitive grants in technology, family literacy, special needs, resource sharing, and other areas.

If you need any further clarification concerning MOE, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Dr. Lamar Veatch
State Librarian

cc: Julie Walker, Deputy Director
Mr. Rob Watts, Chief Operating Officer, University System of Georgia

A Unit of the University System of Georgia

1800 Century Place, Suite 150
Atlanta, GA 30345-4304
tel 404.235.7200 fax 404.235.7201

www.georgialibraries.org



June 27, 2009

Request for Maintenance of Effort Waiver for FY 2010

The Official Code of Georgia assigns responsibility for utilizing authorized state and federal funds to enhance public library service to the Board of Regents, University System of Georgia:

OCGA § 20-2-305 (a) "Public library funds shall be apportioned to county and regional public libraries in proportion to the area and population to be served by such libraries in accordance with regulations and minimum public library requirements prescribed by the state board." (e) "The Board of Regents shall adopt policies and regulations to implement this Code section."

OCGA § 20-5-3 "The Board of Regents shall use such funds for the purpose of aiding and supplementing the establishment and development of public library services."

The funding of public libraries in Georgia is a partnership between the Georgia Public Library Service, which is delegated the responsibility to disperse budgeted state funds, and local taxing authorities that include, cities, counties and boards of education. Public libraries are fundamentally a local responsibility, governed by local boards of trustees appointed by local funding agencies. State funding is provided to enhance public library services, and is used to facilitate economy-of-scale activities that help to insure statewide equity.

Primary state funding to public libraries takes the form of direct grants designated for professional librarian positions, library materials, and general grants to be used to enhance system services. These grant amounts are determined annually by formula. In continuing consultation with the state's public library systems, GPLS endeavors to insure that this distribution formula is as equitable as possible, recognizing the diversity in population, geography and system configuration among the 61 systems

State on-behalf support for libraries includes a statewide data network, providing broadband service to every library facility in Georgia; group purchase of GALILEO databases; group access to OCLC cataloging and interlibrary loan services; provision and maintenance of the PINES ILS system; courier service, and E-Rate funding activities. State grants are provided to libraries undertaking construction projects as matching grants. Federal library funds are utilized on behalf of public libraries for network support, database services, vacation reading club grants, continuing education activities and library services for persons with disabilities.

1800 Century Place, Suite 150
Atlanta, GA 30345-4304
404 235 7200 Fax 404 235 7201
www.georgialibraries.org



State funding may not take the place of adequate, continuing local support for libraries. Local funding agencies must take seriously the responsibility to maintain a reliable level of support for the on-going operation and upkeep of the communities' libraries. This is the basis for the Maintenance of Effort requirement in the "Policies for State Grants". Consequently, reduction in local funding for libraries may result in a proportional reduction or withdrawal of state support.

From "Requirements for Public Library State Grants Funds":

4. Total local governmental annual operating support for each library system shall be equal to or greater than that of the preceding fiscal year. Failure to sustain this maintenance of effort (MOE) requirement will result in the forfeiture of state grants and state-funded benefits to the library system, including but not limited to PINES and Galileo. Special funds or appropriations (e.g. SPLOST, Impact Fees) shall not be calculated as part of MOE.

The Chancellor, University System of Georgia, the Board of Regents and the Georgia Public Library service will consider a waiver of the MOE requirement if the agency determines that a waiver would be equitable due to exceptional or uncontrollable circumstances such as a precipitous and unforeseen decline in the financial resources of a local government entity. When local funding agencies face extreme and serious financial downturns, necessitating reductions of funding to ALL funded departments and agencies, the Library System Board of Trustees may request a waiver of the MOE requirement. The request must originate with the Board of Trustees, and must be signed by the Board Chair.

1. Reduction of funding to the Library must be of an equal or smaller percentage to the reduction of other funded departments and agencies.
2. Restoration of original funding levels must occur no later than restoration of funding to other funded departments/agencies, and must be restored at the same percentage.
3. Waiver of MOE requirements will be granted upon evidence of specific economic hardship, and will be granted for a defined period of time with a clearly-specified time frame for restoration. Waiver will contain an expiration date, after which MOE requirements will be enforced.
4. GPLS reserves the right to reduce state funding at a percentage equal to the local funding reduction.



This MOE waiver request from the library board of trustees must provide comprehensive information that covers the following points:

- the specific circumstances necessitating the waiver, including the nature and extent of reductions,
- how this will affect library services, and what actions the system has taken to ensure that library services are maintained to the fullest extent possible;
- whether the library's budget was proportionately or disproportionately reduced in comparison with the budgets of other locally-funded departments and agencies.
- Efforts to be undertaken by the Board to protect library funding and to ensure restoration at the earliest possible date.
- Description of any other special circumstances that would strengthen this board's waiver request.

GPLS will notify the Library Director within 10 days of receipt of Waiver Request as to approval. GPLS reserves the right to request additional information. Waiver requests which are denied will result in a proportional reduction or total elimination of the state grant allocation to the library system for the fiscal year in question

MOE Waiver Request Requirements:

- Waiver request must be initiated by the governing board of the Library System, and must be signed by the Board Chair. A majority vote of the governing board in favor of a waiver request must be reflected in the official board minutes.
- Waiver may be requested for FY09 or FY10 only.
- Evidence of economic hardship in local government and equal treatment of the library with respect to other local government departments being cut must be certified.
- Supporting documentation from local funding agency, if available, which explains the need for said reduction, should be submitted to GPLS.
- The governing Board must certify that it will expend all efforts possible to pursue the restoration of funding levels.
- On-behalf services offered by funding agency to mitigate reduction should be submitted with documentation, with dollar values specified.
- Service impacts that will be experienced by the library and its users in light of local funding reduction must be detailed.
- Any waiver granted is for a specific single state fiscal year.