

**TIOGA HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
EXECUTIVE BOARD & HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETING**

**Meeting of May 19, 2016**

The Tioga Historical Park & Museum monthly Board meeting was held at the Tioga Museum on Thursday, May 19, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. Members present were:

Wayne Ryan	Jimmie Nelle Lewis	Carolyn Fletcher
Michael Wynn	Reginald Ingram	John DuFour
Sandra Bracknell	Carolyn Hataway	Melba LaCroix
Melba Smith	Priscilla Bartlett	Mary Durusau

Wayne Ryan called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Priscilla Bartlett was welcomed. The Board minutes of February 18, 2016 and Historical Society notes of April 21 were read. There being no corrections, Michael Wynn made a motion to accept, seconded by Reginald Ingram. Motion carried.

The Treasurer's report was given by Jeannette Downs. The general fund began with \$6,556.25 on April 21, 2016. We had one deposit of \$12.00 and expenditures of \$301.96 leaving a balance of \$6,266.29 as of May 19, 2016. The Memorial Plaza account began with \$2,087.75 with no deposits or withdrawals for the month. The Barbershop account began and ended with \$6,984.93 since there was no activity in the account. The question was asked why there was a separate account for the Barbershop. Money was deposited into this account to take care of the 3 buildings. Pookie Ingram made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report. Michael Wynn seconded. Motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Mary Durusau from the Secretary of State's office gave us an update on the legislature session. Some revenue was raised and generated for the state. The budget for SOS museums has been running 3.5M for the past couple of years. The budget now is at 1.9M which it takes to run the Old State Capitol. We are probably at 2.5M now. The budget is passed out of the house and now it's headed to the Senate. They have to pass a balanced budget. They're taking money from hospitals to fund Tops. They are a long way from finding enough money. Their expectation is that the governor would call another special session in an even number year to raise some more revenue. Jay Dardenne said every time he turned around, an item in the operating budget had been mishandled and created more shortfalls.

The second item is HB2 for capital outlay projects. The capital outlay pays for new plans over \$5,000 and takes care of maintenance on old buildings. Less than \$5,000 comes out of the operating budget. Capital outlay funds take care of stabilizing the building and roof. HB2 is used by the whole state to take care of all the projects. Capital outlay has been overextended for a good many years. More than a quarter of a billion dollars in eliminations and reductions to capital outlay projects for fiscal year beginning July 1 were dispatched to the House. The measure axes approximately \$330 million in state-funded projects around Louisiana as a result of the dwindling funds for those projects and prioritizes projects that have already started.

In past years the Louisiana Bond Commission approved cash lines of credit for capital outlay that the state would not be able to repay. The state can only borrow \$435 million from the bank every two years. They

have gone through the list and taken out the improbable and impractical. It's so overextended; they can no longer take care of roads and bridges. Oil is trading at \$30 a barrel and the budget was projected or based on \$60 a barrel. They have to make projections what the budget will be. As a result of the low oil prices we are seeing layoffs in the oil industry. Refineries up and down the river are still doing pretty good but now our bond rating has been reduced. Our ability to borrow and repay money has been reduced. HB2 for capital outlay will be approved in the near future.

The operating budget is looking at reinstating part of the Stelly Plan that was eliminated. Secretary Tom Scheduler has testified before the senate finance 6 times telling what we do as a department and how we do it. His conversations are overlooked when they talk about the big picture of hospitals closing and schools decreased. The long term outlook is not good. Changes are happening everyday in the budget crisis. There will be no money for at least 3 years.

Mary said HB1 is for operating expenses for the beginning part of the year. Secretary Schedler is still looking for partnerships for all the museums. They don't know what will happen in June. Hopefully, they will be able to fund us a few months until the first of the year.

Jimmie Lewis reported that Ray Scriber of the Department of Preservation, Office of Historical Preservation has visited in February and Mary would look into seeing if they have anything that would help us.

An update on the Red Barn was given by Pookie Ingram. The Tioga Mafia agreed to provide the labor to either coat the tin or replace the tin on the red barn. After discussion it was decided to get a quote to find out the cost of the materials to replace the roof. The tin is very old. Pookie will get a measurement and a quote. The guys who volunteered to replace the roof have constructed a pavilion at their church to have an area for cooking.

Mary reported that we would be able to use the facility restrooms with just a few people in the building at a time. The cost is too great to build an outdoor restroom. No more than 15 people can be in the building at one time.

Jimmie Lewis reported she was going to table the Historical marker for the Barbershop while we focus on the urgent problems here at the museum.

### NEW BUSINESS:

Jeannette Downs mentioned the spot on the ceiling where it was damaged by water when the roof was raised up by the wind. John did go up on the roof and nailed and sealed the roof. They do make a kilts spray to paint over the spot. This will be addressed.

Pookie Ingram gave an in-depth report on problems at the Museum and a business plan was developed by the Executive Board members. He had two other engineers read the report by Meyer, Meyer, LaCroix, & Hixson. They spent hours going over the information and looking at the building. All have basically the same opinion. We could do the work in bits and pieces but all the work needs to be completed in order to open again. They both agree we have a jewel here and it needs to be repaired.

The business plan is broken down in where we were, where we are now and how do we repair museum to its glory state. The first problem is drainage. The ditch by the railroad track is congested with trees, shrubs, etc. The culvert under the road is completely plugged up. The yard over time has built up and the water from the road as well as off the roof runs directly under the building. We either need to do a turtle back or a sump pump under the building to keep it dry as well as redirect the water toward the ditch in the front of the museum. That would require taking down the fence and grade toward the ditch. The ditch will need to be cleaned by a backhoe. We should get some help from the police jury or have prisoners to help do the work. We need to shoot a grade on it and put it on the computer.

The second problem is the foundation and piers. Some of the beams or piers are no longer supporting the floor joist and some joists need replacing. Some of the piers have fallen or tilted and are offering no support. The soil is very silted under the museum and needs to be replaced. The Structural problems are:

- Some ceiling beams need replacing
- Building needs realignment
- Roof members in attic need reinforcing
- Building Foundation piers need repaired/replaced
- Ground floor framing needs repairs/replace
- Drainage under building needs corrected
- Drainage ditch between property and railroad track needs cleaned out
- Drainage front of building needs correction
- Roof needs to be replaced.

The Historical Society typically brings in a total of \$6,000 a year income if it was able to have events. Operating expenses typically run \$38,034 with no repairs. In addition to the State, the Historical Society has spent \$7,690 each year to help with expenses. Our total annual P & L Variance would cost us \$39,724 just to operate the museum.

Commissary structure cost estimates are:

• Ceiling Beams (State Quote)	\$ 81,250
• Attic (State Quote)	14,000
• Foundation (State Quote)	84,250
• Fill under building (State Quote)	8,280
• Ins./Profit/10% Contingency	45,332
• Outside Drainage (Estimate)	5,000
• Roof (Estimate)	<u>110,000</u>
Total	\$348,112

We have a huge financial issue. We know the state doesn't have the money to fix it. Loads of people are in the same financial state. All other boards are also trying to raise money for their projects. Pookie has been working on a Methodist project for a year and has only raised \$25,000. Mary likes our business plan. People are selective as to whom they give their money to. Mary mentioned that we have more history in the state than we can afford. The city of Alexandria is considering consolidating the Louisiana Military Museum at Camp Beauregard with a museum at Alexandria for the Louisiana Maneuvers. Camp Beauregard is not conducive to folks coming in and out of the camp because of security.

Wayne Ryan stated that the state has no money. For the next 3-5 years the state will be just limping along. Realistically the state is not going to be able to bring about a solution. Local groups would have to bring about a solution. We would have to come up with a solution to raise funds and repair. We would no longer have a state facility. We wouldn't have that same board. It would revert back to the Historical Society. If we owned it, it would revert back to going by the Rapides Planning Commission.

Mary said as an example, it cost \$20,000 to build a porch for the state. An individual could do it locally for \$7-8 thousand dollars. We would still need a contractor to be licensed and bonded to work on the structure even though a contractor may not have all the insurance requirements required by the state. The state may not have enough money to keep it open until December 30. They are having conversations with other museums now.

Wayne asked what would be the process be if we took it back. We would have to have a vote by the Historical Society to return the property back to the Historical Society and send the request to the Secretary of State. Mary thinks it's advisable to let the State keep as long as possible until their funds run out before we take it over. The Chennault Museum has already been converted back.

Our next step is to identify people that have a heart for this community and wish to save the commissary. Look at all the graduates from Tioga High School and identify those folks that may wish to contribute. Then identify other groups of people who live here and wish to preserve the museum. Each member is to go home and come up with a possible list of people and return your list by June 16. We also need to look at our Membership List and talk about Charter members paying dues.

Wayne said in the insurance business a person could buy an insurance policy and in the event of their death, it would go to the museum. We are a 501-3C organization and we need to promote this.

There being no other business, motion to adjourn was made by Wayne Ryan. Seconded by John DuFour. Motion carried.

Melba LaCroix, Recording for Carolyn Hataway

KY/ml