

Minutes
Bartholomew County Public Library
Board of Trustees Meeting and
Public Hearing on the 2009 Budget
4:00 Library Conference Room
September 8, 2008

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 p.m. by President Stroh.

Present: Betty Lu McGuire Beth Stroh, Brenda Tallent, Russell Taylor and Billie Whitted. Library staff: Beth Poor, Director, Teresa Reynolds, Business Manager; reporter Paul Minnis and Bartholomew County ;Library Associates board member Monta Frazier.

Absent: Gayle Loesch and Nedra Spinks.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the August 11, 2008 meeting were reviewed. Tallent moved and Taylor seconded that the minutes of the August 11, 2008 board meeting be approved. Motion carried unanimously.

Financial Report

Reynolds explained claim 5413 for the transfer of Operating Funds into the Levy Excess account as required by 2008 budget order. These funds will be released to redeposit into the Operating Fund when we receive notice from the Department of Local Government and Finance. Taylor inquired about claim 5465 for Jim Gordon, Inc. Poor explained that this is the purchase of a block of time for technical assistance and maintenance of computer equipment. Our systems manager, Anna Smith, is now on maternity leave and we will be calling upon Brett Kimberlin who works for Jim Gordon to assist in her absence. Taylor moved and McGuire seconded that claims 5413 through 5498 the amount of \$477,812.33 be approved as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Reynolds reported that we had received a proposal from First Financial Bank offering to provide service for our funds. Upon consultation with McGuire, Reynolds contacted Indiana Bank and Trust and requested that they provide us with their best offer to maintain our business. Indiana Bank and Trust did give us a higher interest rate than was proposed by First Financial Bank and therefore maintained our business. All monies in that particular account are part of the Library Improvement Reserve Funds.

Comments and Questions from the Public.

Stroh introduced Paul Minnis of THE REPUBLIC who has been reporting about changes in budgets for governmental units as a result of the delay in property tax assessment and legislative changes in Indiana property tax laws for 2009..

Action Items

Public Hearing for 2009 Operating Fund and LIRF Budgets. Poor explained the positive changes in 2009 budget that was prepared after our meeting with Linda Lessaris of the DLGF. The new formula which combines budget totals allowed us to increase the previous Operating Budget proposal by \$140,000 for 2009.

The budget now includes \$40,000 in Transfer to LIRF and increased Capital Outlays by \$100,000. Poor noted that under the current schedule we need to fax our budget proposal to the auditor's office by September 15th for review by the county council. This will be a non-binding review. Lessaris advised that we might see as much as a 35% reduction in assessed valuation for 2009 combined with continuing reductions to Indiana property taxes in 2009 and 2010,

Taylor commended Poor on her cost reduction efforts and asked if she had any concerns about more cuts. Poor answered that she was confident that the necessary cuts could be accomplished.

Poor reviewed the 2008 budget cuts. We would not transfer the \$80,000 into LIRF.

Our annual review with Dunn and Associates on September 3 showed that the self-funded medical insurance pool is adequately funded at this time. Approximately \$300,000 budgeted for additions to this pool will be not be expended.

Some book purchasing will be delayed until January 2009. Our book leasing agreement with Baker & Taylor is prepaid, and we have a substantial number of remaining points that will be used to continue obtaining best sellers until January 2009. Holiday books, large print books, audio books, music CDs, and DVD's also will be ordered as usual on a weekly basis.

Print versions of business periodicals that are available online have been cut, Back issues of magazines received on microfilm have been eliminated, as these magazines are available online from INSPIRE.

Whitted asked if there has been any response from the public regarding THE REPUBLIC articles, and Poor said some patrons thought that we were going to stop buying books and not catch up with missed titles in 2009.

5. Reports.

Poor reviewed 2008 circulation, reference and programming statistics. Our 2009-2012 Technology Plan has been approved by the Indiana State Library. BCPL will be participating in the Tri-County Business Expo at Seymour and will be sharing booth space with Jackson County Public Library and Jennings County Public Library.

6. New Business.

Our next meeting will be September 29 for the adoption of the 2009 budget. The October 13 board meeting will be held at Hope Branch. and we will have our regular meeting on November 10 even though it is the federal Veteran's Day holiday.

Adjournment

There being no further business to conduct, Stroh adjourned the meeting at 4.55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Billie Whitted, Secretary

Beth Stroh, President