

LaGrange County Public Library Board Meeting
Thursday, December 21, 2023
Community Room, LaGrange County Public Library main branch
203 W. Spring Street
LaGrange, IN 46761

Board members Present: Jody Blake Jerry White, Rita Lehner, Sam Plew, Maranda Randol, Martin Franke

Board members absent: none

Others Present: Richard Kuster, Anna Mendoza

Sam Plew called the meeting to order at 5:36 pm.

Sam called for a review of the minutes of the November 2023 meeting. **Rita moved acceptance of the minutes as submitted, and Jerry seconded the motion. Minutes were approved with no additional changes by unanimous voice vote of the Board with no further discussion.**

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's Report was presented by Library Director Richard Kuster. He noted that the Operating Fund balance is \$422,000 +/-, with an additional \$341,640 received today from the Fall property tax levy. With this balance of approximately \$750,000 in the Operating Fund, he recommended moving \$200,000 to the Rainy Day Fund. Jody commented that if the need arises, we can always move money back from Rainy Day to the Operating Fund. **Jerry moved to move the money as recommended, Rita seconded the motion, motion approved by unanimous voice vote of the Board with no further discussion.**

Richard reported to the Board that the Library Bond payment is due January 15, 2024 in the amount of \$286,291.25. He asked that the Board authorize payment of the bond before the end of 2023. **Rita moved to authorize the bond payment, seconded by Jody and approved by unanimous voice vote of the Board with no further discussion.**

Jody asked why payroll is at 109% at this point in the year. The answer was that several library pages were hired, then promoted to clerk. This expenditure was not anticipated. Richard plans to transfer money at the end of the year from Personnel Services, which is underspent, to Payroll Services.

Anna Mendoza, Asst. Library Director, presented Reports and Claims. Claims included check numbers 29,771 through 29,825 in the Operating Fund and Electronic Funds Transfers; Check no. 1023 from the Grant Fund; for a total monthly expenditure of \$125,677.05. There was brief discussion amongst Board members. **Jody moved to accept Claims and Reports as presented, Rita seconded the motion, motion approved by unanimous voice vote of the Board with no further discussion.**

Sam called for the Director's Report. Richard Kuster presented the following items:

- Trust Indiana investment currently paying 5.39% interest return.
- Budget: DLGF report has returned form #1728, acknowledging receipt of the Library's proposed budget for 2024. Richard will review the form, verify for accuracy, and if satisfactory, sign and return to DLGF.
- Richard explained minor differences between anticipated income and actual. He has prepared a line item budget for 2024, which he distributed to the Board in the form of Resolution 2023-12-1. Sam read the Resolution aloud. **The Resolution was approved, after a cut-and-paste date error was identified and corrected, by unanimous signature vote of the Board, attested by the Board Secretary. A copy of the [blank]resolution is attached to these minutes.**
- IT Contract Services Proposal was presented to the Board by Richard. The Library has been served satisfactorily for a number of years by Chester Inc. Chester has been purchased by another company.

Since that time, the library lost the services of the Chester IT tech and subsequently service has not been consistent or satisfactory. Richard and Anna have identified a company "AVC", which comes from other library systems with high recommendations. Service cost will increase by an anticipated \$17,000 per year over our previous arrangement with Chester. There was extended discussion and many questions. It was finally decided that AVC is our only viable option at the current time, and we need to go ahead and contract with them. At the same time, Richard and Anna committed to continue to explore other options for IT services for the LCPL in the future. **Rita moved to authorize the contract with AVC at the anticipated cost of \$2730/month for IT support, Maranda seconded the motion, which was then approved by unanimous voice vote of the Board with no further discussion.**

- Richard presented the Classification and Compensation Schedule for 2024 in the form of Resolution 2023-12-2. Sam read the Resolution aloud. There was a brief discussion concerning CDL certification for staff driving the Bookmobile. Jerry moved to approve the Resolution, Maranda seconded the motion, which was then approved by unanimous signature vote of the Board on the Resolution. A [blank] copy of the Resolution 2023-12-2 is attached to these minutes.
- There were no comments regarding the Staffing Report, Circulation Report, Statistical Report other than to note their presence. Richard commented that the Collection Report Review needs to be pursued in some detail by the Board in the New Year.
- Richard presented three options for the proposed expansion of the Shipshewana Branch Library. There was extensive discussion. Jerry advised the Board to establish clear goals and time-span objectives before making a decision. There was concern that we carry out responsible development that will maximize the potential of the addition. We must account for likely changes in demographic needs and technological advances. This development will be taken under long-term consideration by the Board.
- Richard reported that the last large maple tree on the LaGrange Main Branch property has been removed by John Klopfenstein. The tree was hollowed out. The Board requested that in the next month, Richard take time to review the Dr. Seuss book entitled "The Lorax".
- Richard presented the Board with the Meeting and Holiday schedule for 2024.

There were no reports from the **Personnel, Facilities, or Policy** Committees. There was no **Correspondence to the Board** to report. There was no **Old Business**.

New Business: Rita brought an article to the Board's attention that featured the concern that history in the United States and across the World is being rewritten to represent narratives and social agendas instead of reality. Censorship represents a real danger to freedom and democracy.

At 7:37 pm, Jerry moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Maranda, and approved by unanimous voice vote of the Board with no further discussion.



Minutes recorded, typed, and respectfully submitted by Martin A. Franke
LaGrange County Public Library Board of Directors Secretary
