

Van Buren District Library Board

Board Meeting
April 26, 2016
Webster Memorial Library

Minutes

Chairperson Sandra Hanson called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m. at the Webster Memorial Library.

Present: Wayne Rendell, Phillip Marshall, Betty Markel, Libby Godwin, Bruce Cutting, Catherine Hulin, Marianne Abbott, and Sandra Hanson. Ryan Wieber, director; Debby Stassek, assistant director; Molly Wunderlich, business manager; Denise Campagna, Lawrence branch manager; and Michael Overley, MERS regional manager.

Absent: No one.

It was moved to approve the agenda, with the MERS presentation moved to the position after public comment. (Motion: Markel; Second: Hulin; Motion: Carried).

It was moved to approve the minutes of the March 22, 2016 Board meeting as mailed. (Motion: Abbott; Second: Godwin; Motion: Carried).

It was moved to approve for payment the supplemental March “due to” vouchers number 16-03-56 through 16-03-59 in the amount of \$33,138.49; supplemental General Fund vouchers number 16-03-58 through 16-03-81 in the amount of \$54,749.51; April 2016 “due to” vouchers number 16-04-01 through 16-04-03 in the amount of \$6,596.90; and April General Fund vouchers number 16-04-03 through 16-04-92 in the amount of \$157,002.71. (Motion: Rendell; Second: Cutting; Motion: Carried).

Public Comment:

None

MERS Presentation:

Michael Overley, regional manager for the Municipal Employees' Retirement System reported on the “experience study” that has just been completed by MERS. These studies are conducted every five years to re-evaluate “impactful changes” to funding assumptions. As a result of the study, three changes to actuarial assumptions will be made:

1. Life expectancy – two years have been added to average life expectancy.
2. Expected rate of return – has been lowered from 8% to 7.75%.

3. The amortization period for payment of funding shortfalls has been dropped from 24 to 23 years, and will continue to decrease until it reaches zero.

Based on the new assumptions, VBDL's current defined benefit program will decrease to 85 percent funded for FY 2017. Several possible future actions were presented, including a lump sum deposit, longer vesting, employee contributions, or moving to a hybrid plan.

Reports:

Denise Campagna reported on programs at the Lawrence Branch Library, including tai chi, silly science, book clubs, lego club, school-age art exhibit, graphic novel club, puppy tales, and a teen photo contest. Author Sally Stap will be visiting on May 18 and Wii Wednesdays are scheduled for summer.

Molly Wunderlich reviewed the Library's revenues and expenditures for the first quarter. In revenues, property taxes are 90 percent received. In expenditures, account 718 reflected the normal monthly amount paid to retirement and 936 Automation Maintenance included an expense for the state-wide NCIP connection between TLC and MeL. Penal fines were down 24.25 percent for March and 21.63 percent for the year, so far.

Wunderlich also shared a summary of first quarter library programs. Totaling all age groups, 1,809 people attended 255 programs in 3 months at 7 locations.

Mr. Wieber reviewed his written director's report. The Antwerp, Bangor, Gobles, and Lawrence open houses have been well attended. The Webster Memorial Library Open House is Saturday, April 30, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.; followed by Covert on Tuesday May 10 (4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.); and Bloomingdale on Sunday May 15 (1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.).

Staff members have been busy attending conferences and workshops. Emily Burns and Mollie Barkovich attended Spring Institute in Lansing April 14 and 15; Barkovich attended a Michigan Association for Media in Education (MAME) workshop in Howell April 23; Debby Stassek went to the Public Library Association (PLA) conference in Denver April 8 to 11; and five staff members will be attending the Loleta Fyan Small and Rural Libraries Conference on Mackinaw Island May 4 to 6.

Mr. Wieber announced that the Cassie time and print management system for public computers has now been installed at all locations and is working well. New computers are being installed in Bangor, Bloomingdale, Gobles, and Lawrence this week and next. Shelving at the Webster Memorial Library has been reconfigured to better display dvds and audiobooks; large print books have been shifted to the center of the adult area; and non-fiction books have been consolidated. New books displays are being created.

Unfinished Business:

Mr. Wieber reported that Covert Township and the new owners of the gas-fired plant, ArcLight have been in negotiations to avoid continued and settle the longstanding tax matter.

New Business:

It was moved to hire Amy Druskovich as Webster Memorial Library local history clerk, level 13C, 12 hours per week, effective April 26, 2016. (Motion: Markel; Second: Godwin; Motion: Carried).

The Board also accepted the resignation of Miriam Bryant, Covert branch clerk, effective May 13, 2016.

Mr. Wieber reviewed the Circulation report. Circulation is down 10.01 percent for the first quarter, when compared to 2015. Decreases have been observed at all locations while gate counts are suspected to be steady or growing. Members of the Board suggested every location should have a digital people counter.

The date of the next meeting was set for Tuesday, May 24, 2016, at 5:00 p.m., at the Antwerp Sunshine Library in Mattawan. This meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chairman

Secretary

Recorded by Debby Stassek