

Van Buren District Library Board

Board Meeting
April 23, 2019
Bangor Branch Library

Minutes

Chairperson Bruce Cutting called the board meeting to order at 4:33 p.m. at the Bangor Branch Library.

Present: Marianne Abbott, Sandra Hanson, Bruce Cutting, Denise Campagna, Wayne Rendell, Catherine Hulin, Betty Markel and Libby Godwin. Dan Hutchins, director; Molly Wunderlich, associate director; Bobbi Martindale, branch librarian; Nick Culp, Mick Middaugh, Entergy Corporation

Absent: none

It was moved to approve the agenda as mailed, moving our guests to the top of the agenda (Motion: Markel; Second: Hulin; Motion: Carried).

Mick Middaugh and Nick Culp gave an update to the closure of the Palisades Nuclear Power Plant. The plant is scheduled to be close May 2022. At that time, Palisades' license to operate will transfer to a decommission company, Holtec. Holtec plans an accelerated decommissioning of the plant over 15 years. Mr. Culp and Mr. Middaugh could not estimate the taxable value of the plant over the next years of operation or during the decommissioning process. Unlike other states, in Michigan, taxable values are assessed annually, and Palisades cannot enter into a multi-year tax payment schedule. The selling prices for most nuclear plants is lower than current taxable values, and a 25-30% decline in taxable value over the next three years would not be unexpected.

It was moved to approve the minutes of the March Board meeting as mailed. (Motion: Hanson; Second: Markel; Motion: Carried).

It was moved to approve for payment the April "due to" vouchers numbers 19-04-01 through 19-04-03 in the amount of \$14,447.45; and General Fund vouchers numbers 19-04-03 through 19-04-98 in the total amount of \$161,776.58; (Motion: Rendell; Second: Abbott; Motion: Carried).

Public Comment: None.

Reports :

Molly Wunderlich reviewed the financial statements for the month end March 31, 2019. At the end of March, the Library had spent 22% of its budget for the year. Ms. Wunderlich attended a MERS update meeting. As a result of their recent five-year experience study, MERS will be reducing its expected rate of return from 7.75% to 7.35%, effective 2021. MERS is also decreasing its projected employee salary increases, which will offset some of the increased cost. The Library's funding percentage decreased significantly last time the expected rate of return was decreased. MERS will release the Library's next actuarial report before June 30, 2019.

Dan Hutchins reviewed the written director's report. Cheryl Bull started as Bloomingdale Branch Librarian. Mr. Hutchins is applying for a grant from the Michigan Council for the Arts & Cultural Affairs to be used to refresh the Webster location. The Webster Trust is willing to commit funds if the grant is approved. The Library's e-newsletter launched on April 5, 2019. The initial open rate was 33%.

Catherine Hulin and Mr. Hutchins attended a Pine Grove Township board meeting recently to discuss the space needs of the community. The Van Buren Regional Genealogical Society moved their materials on April 9 and 10. The move proceeded smoothly.

Mr. Hutchins reviewed the upcoming dates for Strategic Planning focus groups. The meetings will take place in May in early June. He also updated the locations for board meetings for the remainder of 2019. In an effort to spend more time at the branches, the May, June, September, and October meetings will take place at a branch location.

Unfinished Business:

The board reviewed the proposed changes to the Board of Trustees Bylaws. After discussion, It was moved to approve the bylaws with the following changes; moving the public comment portion to the meeting to immediately follow the call to order and adding a second public comment opportunity after new business. (Motion Rendell; Second: Campagna; Motion: Carried).

New Business:

The new business items regarding the Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs grant and future Library Board meeting schedule were discussed during the Mr. Hutchins's report. The Library board agreed to make a financial commitment to the improvement of Webster Memorial should the grant be funded.

Employee Changes:

It was moved to: promote Cheryl Bull to Bloomingdale Branch Librarian at 25 hours per week; hire Michele Jepkema as Antwerp Sunshine Branch page at 15 hours per week, Greg Allwine as Antwerp Sunshine Branch page at 12 hours per week; change Kathleen Wright, Antwerp Branch clerk to 29 hours per week, Linda Bjork-Ewin, Antwerp Branch clerk to 26 hours per week; accept the resignation of Jeffrey Babbitt,

Antwerp Sunshine Branch clerk at 26 hours per week (Motion: Godwin; Second: Hanson; Motion: Carried).

The next Library board meeting will take place on May 28, 2019 at 4:30 p.m. at the Bloomingdale Branch Library in Bloomingdale.

It was moved to adjourn at 5:50 p.m. (Motion: Hanson; Second: Abbott; Motion: Carried).

Respectfully Submitted,

Chairman

Secretary

Recorded by Molly Wunderlich