

Van Buren District Library

Meeting

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Covert Branch Library

4:30 p.m.

Minutes

Chairperson Markel called the regular Board meeting to order at 4:30 PM at the Covert Branch Library.

Present: Betty Markel, Sandy Hanson, Bruce Cutting, Denise Campagna, David Vliek, Pam Dickerson, and Wayne Rendell. Dan Hutchins, Executive Director; Franc Pach, Business Manager; Elissa Zimmer, District Program Coordinator/Webster Branch Manager.

Absent: Catherine Hulin (excused).

Public Comment:

None.

It was moved to approve the agenda as mailed: (Motion: Rendell; Second: Hanson; Motion: Carried).

It was moved to approve the minutes of the of August 22, 2023 Meeting: (Motion: Hanson; Second: Campagna; Motion: Carried).

It was moved to approve the payment of the September “due to” vouchers 23-09-01 through 23-09-04 in the amount of \$12,303.25 and General Fund vouchers 23-09-02 through 23-09-88 in the amount of \$159,443.44: (Motion: Hanson; Second: Vliek; Motion: Carried).

Reports:

A. Financial Update

Franc and Dan reviewed the overall budget with the Board.

B. Investment Report

Treasury bills have been reinvested, and certificates of deposits that are coming due will be used to pay the Library’s monthly expenses. Franc reported the Library’s Treasury bill investments are performing well, and have been laddered to provide flexibility and maximize earnings. The Board would like to see the Endowment Fund invested in Treasury bills as well in order to yield a higher return, and instructed Dan to follow up.

C. Director’s Report & Employee Changes

Dan spoke about the passing of Mary Webster, a long-term Friends of the Lawrence Library member and recent president. Mary loved the Lawrence community and the Lawrence Library, and the Lawrence community and the Library reciprocated her love. Dan further spoke about the departure of Interlibrary Loan Coordinator Amber Blauer, who introduced many efficiencies into the process during her tenure at VBDL; Amber will be missed. Dan is in talks with County Administrator John Fall about the possibility of the County assuming the care of Webster Memorial Library in the future. Dan further stated he felt it will be essential for the Webster Memorial Trust to concur with any future plans

Van Buren District Library

Meeting

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Covert Branch Library

4:30 p.m.

for the care of Webster Memorial Library, as the Trust owns the facility. Further discussion to be had.

Unfinished Business:

A. Millage Renewal

Various potential ballot question scenarios were discussed, and the financial impact of each scenario on the Library, and the taxpayers of the Library District. Dan and Franc also reviewed how any potential millage increase funds would be spent, especially as compared to statewide spending averages for public libraries of a similar size to VBDL. Dan reviewed past statewide public library millage campaigns; which ones failed, and why. The Board stated we would need the help of our Friends groups to pass any millage. Dan further stated that not only is the participation of the Friends groups important, but also of each and every trustee of the Library Board.

Motion to move forward with a .4 millage campaign in 2024: (Motion: Campagna; Second: Rendell; Voting “yes” – Rendell, Dickerson, Cutting, Vliek, Hanson, Campagna, Markel; Voting “no”- no one; Absent: Hulin; Motion: Carried).

New Business:

A. Special Guests: Village of Bloomingdale President Renee Robbins and Bloomingdale Township Clerk Melanie Kelly, in addition to Gal Simpson.

Village of Bloomingdale and Township representatives discussed the contractual agreement the Village of Bloomingdale and Bloomingdale Township have with VBDL for VBDL to operate a branch library in the Bloomingdale Municipal Building. The guests related the votes of their respective governing boards.

Motion was made for the contract between Van Buren District Library, the Village of Bloomingdale, and Bloomingdale Township to be reviewed by the Library’s attorneys: (Motion: Vliek; Second: Rendell; Motion: Carried).

Public Comment:

None.

Next meeting date, Tuesday, October 24, 2023 at 4:30 PM at the **Bangor Branch Library, 420 Division Street, Bangor, MI 49013.**

It was moved to adjourn at 5:41 PM: (Motion: Hanson; Second: Campagna; Motion: Carried).

The meeting was resumed at 5:48 PM.

Motion to increase staff compensation 25% over the usual base hourly rate if an hourly, part-time staff member elects to work a non-scheduled shift at a branch other than their normal reporting location: (Motion: Vliek; Second: Cutting; Voting “yes” – Rendell,

Van Buren District Library

Meeting

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Covert Branch Library

4:30 p.m.

Dickerson, Cutting, Vliek, Hanson, Campagna, Markel; Voting "no"- no one; Absent: Hulin; Motion: Carried).

It was moved to adjourn at 5:54 p.m. (Motion: Hanson; Second: Cutting; Motion: Carried).

Respectfully Submitted,

Chairperson

Secretary

Recorded by Franciszek Pach & Dan Hutchins