

Van Buren District Library

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 28, 2023

Webster Memorial Library

4:30 P.M.

Chairperson Markel called the regular Board meeting to order at 4:30 P.M. at Webster Memorial Library.

Present: Betty Markel, Sandy Hanson, Bruce Cutting, Denise Campagna, Pam Dickerson, and Wayne Rendell. Dan Hutchins, Executive Director; Franc Pach, Business Manager; Elissa Zimmer, District Program Coordinator/Webster Branch Manager; Tyler Augst, President of the Friends of the Van Buren District Library.

Absent: Catherine Hulin (excused), David Vliek (excused).

Public Comment:

None.

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

It was moved to approve the minutes of the October 24, 2023 meeting: (Motion: Cutting; Second: Hanson; Motion: Carried).

It was moved to approve the payment of the November "due to" vouchers 23-11-01 through 23-11-04 in the amount of \$11,177.72 and general fund vouchers 23-11-02 through 23-11-69 in the amount of \$223,290.80: (Motion: Campagna; Second: Rendell; Motion: Carried).

Reports:

A. Financial Update

The Library is doing well fiscally and will be ending the year \$300,000 better than budgeted for. This is largely due to unpredictable revenue sources such as penal fines, interest earnings, Webster Trust payments coming in higher, and memorial gifts and grants.

B. Investment Report

Treasury bills that came due were reinvested.

C. Director's Report & Employee Changes

John Small from Van Buren County Buildings & Grounds recently visited Webster Memorial Library to tour the building. John is working on a proposal for the care of the facility and seems excited by the prospect. He is working on a proposal. Once he has one together the next step would be to arrange a meeting between John and the Webster Trust to gauge their interest in the possibility. It should be known before the end of the year if the Palisades Nuclear Power Plant will receive a loan from the Federal Government to reopen. A special election was held on November 7th and every public school ballot question passed, as did eight out of nine public library ballot questions across the State of Michigan. Legislation will be introduced this January in the Michigan House of Representatives to

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better protect individual rights to access public library materials in the state.

Unfinished Business:

A. **Bloomingtondale Branch Financials**

Franc Pach reviewed his reconciliation of the statement and invoices which were given to VBDL at the October 24 Library Board meeting by Village of Bloomingtondale President Renee Robbins. Executive Director Hutchins briefed the Board on expenses incurred in relation to the Bloomingtondale branch over the past two years. The Board instructed Executive Director Hutchins regarding how they would like him to next proceed.

B. **2024 Millage Ballot Question**

Tyler Augst, President of the Friends of the Van Buren District Library was present to voice his support for a 2024 millage ballot question. It was moved to place a .4 millage increase question on the May 7, 2024 ballot: (Motion: Rendell; Second: Hanson; Voting “yes” – Rendell, Cutting, Dickerson, Campagna, Hanson, Markel; Voting “no” – no one; Absent: Hulin, Vliek: Motion: Carried).

New Business:

A. **2023 Budget Amendments**

It was moved to approve the 2023 Budget Amendments as presented: (Motion: Cutting; Second: Rendell; Motion: Carried).

B. **PA 152 Employee Health Insurance Override Resolution**

It was moved to approve the 2023 PA 152 Employee Health Insurance Override Resolution as presented: (Motion: Rendell; Second: Cutting; Voting “yes” – Rendell, Cutting, Dickerson, Campagna, Hanson, Markel; Voting “no” – no one; Absent: Hulin, Vliek. Motion: Carried).

Health Insurance 2023-24 Plan Year Library Deductible Contribution

It was moved to increase the 2023-24 health insurance plan year library deductible contribution from 50% of the deductible amount to 75%, to amend the Library’s Personnel Policy to remove a specific in-lieu of insurance payment amount, and to increase the 2023-24 health insurance plan year in-lieu of payment from \$3,000 to \$3,500: (Motion: Hanson; Second: Campagna; Motion: Carried).

C. **Library Staff Year End Additional Compensation**

It was moved to grant \$100 net additional compensation per staff member, including delivery drivers and active substitutes,

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from the Library's 2023 Salary and Wages general ledger account: (Motion: Campagna; Second: Hanson; Motion: Carried).

D. **Village of Decatur DDA Opt-out Resolution**

It was moved to approve the resolution declaring that taxes are not subject to capture or otherwise exempt taxes from capture by the Downtown Development Authority of the Village of Decatur as presented: (Motion: Campagna; Second: Rendell; Voting "yes" – Rendell, Cutting, Dickerson, Campagna, Hanson, Markel; Voting "no" – no one; Absent: Hulin, Vliek: Motion Carried).

E. **2024 Library Board Meeting Dates and Scheduled Closures**

It was moved to approve Van Buren District Library's 2024 Board meeting dates and scheduled closures as presented: (Motion: Campagna; Second: Hanson; Motion: Carried).

Public Comment:

Dan Hutchins discussed the cumulative rate of CPI during his six years as executive director of VBDL. From December 2017 to October 2023 cumulative CPI has been 27%. This rate of inflation, together with the closure of the Palisades Nuclear Power Plant, has cost VBDL about \$550,000 in annual funding.

Next meeting date: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 at 4:30PM at Webster Memorial Library in Decatur.

PLEASE NOTE: Due to the holidays, the December Library Board meeting occurs one week earlier than usual, falling on the third Tuesday of December rather than the fourth.

It was moved to adjourn at 5:29 PM: (Motion: Hanson; Second: Campagna; Motion: Carried).