

The regular scheduled monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of the Eastern Monroe Public Library was held on Tuesday, February 16, 2010, at 8:30 a.m. at the Hughes Library of the Eastern Monroe Public Library

Present: B. Huffman, T. Weitzmann, B. Murphy, M. Liberman, L. Kline, J. Morganthau, B. Ewen

Absent:

Staff: S. Butler, B. Kiser, M. Erm

Guests:

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by T. Weitzmann

LK/JM moved to approve the minutes of the January 19, 2010, meeting, as presented. Carried.

President's Report – T. Weitzmann reported that he met with J. Prevoznik, Library solicitor, last week concerning proposed changes to the By-laws. J. Prevoznik made some suggestions and clarified some of the history involved in the drafting of the current by-laws. This information will be presented to the committee at their next meeting for consideration in the final draft of the revised By-laws proposal.

Treasurer's Report - M. Liberman explained that the library has closed out the PNC Brokerage Account due to the very low interest and has opened a savings account with Citizen's Bank, which is paying a slightly higher rate. He also explained that when the 2009 budget was approved the Board approved an additional 1% increase for staff if the budget could support it – about \$9800.

At the end of 2009 the library had approximately \$50,000 remaining from the budget. \$9800 of that is the money used for the Staff incentive bonus awarded the first payroll in February. The \$277,000 in Citizen's Savings includes the \$107K from the PNC Brokerage account (Reserve Fund), \$20,000 left over from 2009 budget, and \$150,000 of the State Aid. The Citizen's savings account is now the Reserve Account.

M. Liberman and B. Keiser have drafted a letter to Lehman Twp regarding the possibility of funding from them. They are in Pike, but a large percentage of the Smithfields' Branch usage is Pike County residents.

The EMPL Foundation has received a bequest of \$400k. The bequest reads that a % should be used to supplement the children's dept and the remainder be used for operating.

BH/JM moved to approve the Treasurer's Report. Carried

ML/LK mved to approve the bills as presented Carried.

Buildings and Equipment – B. Keiser reported that we have changed our fluorescent bulbs in the library to the higher efficiency types. Staff is investigating some other energy saving items and/or procedures such as sensors on the restrooms light switches.

Personnel Committee – L. Kline explained the three Personnel Policies ready for Board action.

JM/BM Moved to approve the Staff Conduct, Work Week, Non Health Related Leaves of Absence policies as presented. Carried.

SMF Taskforce – J. Morganthau reported she met with Michael Baxter regarding some properties. Most of them were unsuitable, but there was one piece of property the committee will be investigating. She also noted that one piece of property that was initially rejected by the committee might be looked at again because the owner has expressed an interest in working with the library. The committee is will continue investigating some other options.

J. Morganthau noted we would be looking at \$350k for just land.

By-laws – J. Morganthau reported the revised by-laws are just about ready to present to the Board for action. T. Weitzmann reported that J. Prevoznik (who was instrumental in setting up the current by-laws) commented that the library is an independent non-profit corp. and the only County participation is by collecting the tax and distributing the funds.

It was the consensus of the Board that appointments by the Commissioners should be kept in the by-laws.

B. Keiser noted how cumbersome the procedure is currently and suggested trying to come up with some alternative ideas to keep the Commissioners involved and make the whole process less cumbersome. One suggestion was to reorganize the districts, perhaps two municipalities per representative, and eliminate the alternate.

M. Liberman suggested the Board approve the changes when they are satisfied and then present the approved by-laws to the Commissioners with no time constraints and ask them to review them. T. Weitzmann noted that he was planning to schedule a meeting with the commissioners to let them know what revisions we are planning and why.

Nominating Committee – B. Keiser reported she has prepared a list of potential Board candidates. She will email this list to all Board members for their input/veto. It was suggested a letter be sent to potential candidates over T. Weitzmann's and B. Keiser's signatures asking them if they have an interest in the library and would be willing to be appointed – maybe not at this point, but in the future.

B. Ewen suggested we include in the letter that there are many opportunities to help the library if they are unable to make the full commitment as a Board member

Fundraising – No report

Director's Report – B. Keiser reported that staff has created a wish list for “Buy a Book”. Included are items we need more copies of and/or have a lot of requests for but are not able to purchase them at this point.

Recently 4 new hardback books have been donated.

Staff has not had any response from PNC about credit cards, so have made arrangements with Citizen's to proceed with credit cards.

M. Erm reported on the Summer Reading Program. We will have a live penguin visiting. In conjunction we will be doing a “pennies for penguins” to adopt a penguin. The actual penguin “adopted” will be the visitor.

B. Keiser reported that we have two staff members who have been working on their Library Assistant certification. One just completed hers and the second is pending.

The library will be reinstating bi-lingual story time.

The community room has been bursting at the seams for some of the programs.

The African American read-in is planned for this month

B. Keiser reported that the 2009 statistics are completed. There were over 95,000 public internet sessions in 2009.

Old Business

It was suggested we re-visit the health insurance issue. Sue B. will try to schedule a presentation from the Geisinger folks.

New Business – B. Keiser reported on a presentation from an organization regarding public access TV – mainly broadcasting meetings. They are looking for library support.

This will be referred to the Policy Committee for review for the next meeting.

B. Keiser reported there was also a presentation from another company on solar panels for the library. They are working on a formal proposal. Once a proposal is received the library architect, J. Schoonover and the building committee would be involved.

TW/ML moved to go into Executive Session at 9:55. Carried.

Moved to come out of Executive Session at
The meeting adjourned at .