

The regular scheduled monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of the Eastern Monroe Public Library was held on Tuesday, January 15, 2008, at 8:30 a.m. at the Hughes library.

Present: E. Rydell, M. Liberman, B. Huffman, A. Harmon, T. Weitzmann, B. Murphy, A. Senese, D. Lynch, L. Jenkins

Staff: S. Butler, B. Keiser,

The meeting was called to order at 8:35 a.m. by E. Rydell.

E. Rydell presented the proposed slate of officers for 2008

LJ/TW moved to approve the following proposed slate of officers: E. Rydell, President; B. Huffman, Vice President; B. Murphy, Secretary; M. Liberman, Treasurer. Carried.

TW/BM moved to approve the minutes of the Dec 18, 2007, meeting, with a correction to the spelling of C. Paulus name. Carried.

President's Report – E. Rydell reported he will have committee assignments in place for the February Board meeting.

Treasurer's Report - M. Liberman reviewed the financials.

B. Keiser noted we did exceed budget again on tax income. Other libraries in the county do not seem to be experiencing the same thing.

M. Liberman noted we were under budget in expenses and a good portion of that was in personnel costs. This was due to staff vacancies during a portion of the year.

BH/LJ moved to approve the financials for audit. Carried.

ML/DL moved to approve the bills as presented. Carried.

Buildings and Equipment – B. Huffman reported she went up to look at the ice at the Smf branch. She reported that M. Smf Twp did a good job cindering the parking lot. It was recommended that some parking lot renovations be undertaken in the spring. She reported that B. Keiser had placed caution tape in the area.

She reported she has been contacted again concerning the available property in Middle Smf. They wanted to know if the Board is interested and noted they would sell it to the library for \$1.00.

It was questioned whether the property had any visibility to Route 209. The consensus was that it does not. It was also noted that a lot of the property is wetlands so not all of the 4 acres would be usable.

The Board members felt it should wait until spring when it can be reviewed as well as review a map showing the wetlands.

B. Keiser suggested consultant R. Bowra be employed to do a study on this property.

Planning – It was reported that A. Senese and B. Keiser will meet this week to begin work on the Strategic Plan.

Personnel Committee – T. Weitzmann reported the committee will begin work immediately on the library Director's evaluation.

Policy – L. Jenkins noted she should have a report at the February meeting.

Director's Report – B. Keiser distributed copies of her written report and highlighted several points. There is a possibility of three grants being available to the library. One in memory of Pat Lasecki, former Pocono Township Branch Manager, a grant from the Gates Foundation for computer updating, and a Community Development grant from Senator Boscola, which could go toward security cameras and/or replacement of the Community Room carpeting.

The first programming project coming up in 2008 is the African American Read-in. There are book lists and displays and puppeteer, Kevin Clash (puppeteer of Elmo) will be giving a brief talk and signing copies of his book, "My Life as a Furry Red Monster". Staff is emphasizing to the public this is not a children's program.

Staff Development Day is scheduled for May 2. All library staff is mandated to report suspected child abuse so training has been scheduled on this subject for our staff development day.

The new book drop located out front next to the original one was purchased by the Friends. Previously all print and non-print material was put in the same drop and often the packaging on the non-print material was damaged. The additional book drop has made it possible to have print materials put in one and non-print in the other.

B. Keiser reported she went to one day of the ALA winter program and got a lot of good ideas – all of which cost money.

She noted there is an improvement for our SIRSI catalogue system available at significant cost.

There are a number of other costly improvements needed to Hughes such as carpeting, furniture, transition from video to dvd, as well as keeping the idea of a new Smf facility in mind.

B. Murphy suggested asking the new board of commissioners to up the tax percentage.

There was discussion on different types of statistics needed to be included in our monthly/annual statistic totals to better show the accurate use of the library.

The next EMPL Foundation meeting will be on January 22.

Old Business – no report

New Business – no report

The meeting adjourned at 9:20