MONROE COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES

1. At a Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Monroe County Library System held on November 14, 2005 at the Ellis Reference and Information Center , the meeting was called to order by Chairperson Calder. Roll call by Secretary Elizabeth Taylor follows:

Present: Catharine Calder, Chair; Elizabeth Taylor, Secretary; MaryAnn Bourque and Fred Lux, Trustees; Nancy Colpaert, Director; and Diane Ohlemacher, Recording Secretary.

Excused: Vice-Chair Larry Gregory

Staff: Nancy Bellaire

A quorum being present, the Board proceeded to transact business.

2. Motion by Trustee Lux, supported by Trustee Bourque, that the agenda be adopted as presented. Motion carried.

3. Motion by Trustee Lux, supported by Trustee Bourque, to accept the minutes of the regular board meeting October 17, 2005 as printed. Motion carried.

4. Public Comment - None.

5. Consent Agenda

Motion by Secretary Taylor, supported by Trustee Lux, to accept the items on the consent agenda as presented, including the October 2005 Financial Report, and place on file. Motion carried.

6. Committee Reports

Finance Committee

Ms. Calder said the Finance Committee met last week November 3 rd and reviewed a lot of the normal business that we do and went through the bills quite carefully. We were happy that the Milan Public Library millage passed. A number of issues discussed are on tonight's agenda. We will more than likely exceed our budget of penal fines for 2005.

Facilities Committee

Ms. Bourque said the committee met November 8 th at the South Rockwood Branch Library. Most of the branches are doing very well, making lots of improvements. Facility agreements with the township offices are due to expire next year. We are looking into putting safety issues in the agreements to cover staff and patrons in the building they are working or visiting. The library

staff is going to make a list of recommendations for improvements at South Rockwood or any other branch that needs it.

Policy and Personnel Committee

Ms. Taylor said the committee met Nov. 3 rd and reviewed the Unique Management service contract for material recovery. The Employee Assistance Program will go into effect December 1 st . The committee is recommending that the library system be closed the morning of December 8 th for professional development for staff.

Community Partnering Committee

There was no meeting.

Technology Committee

There was no meeting.

Woodlands Update

There is a meeting scheduled for Thursday.

Legislative Update

Nothing to report.

7. Unfinished Business

There is nothing new to report on the Milan Reciprocal Agreement. The board discussed removing this topic from the agenda. The Monroe County Library System sent the last piece of correspondence to Milan and has put forth every good faith effort and consider it a dead issue unless we receive correspondence from them to the contrary.

Discussion continued from last Wednesday's budget workshop on setting an "across the board" salary increase for staff for 2006. Director Colpaert gave trustees a spreadsheet outlining 2, 2.5 and 3% increases to the salary schedule. CPI is said to be 2.4% and the County of Monroe has negotiated contracts for 3% and 3.25%. However, there is a decrease in state aid and revenue income is rather flat for 2006. Step increases have been extended on the salary schedule and at this time, there is no way to know whether retiree healthcare or retirement costs will increase. Motion by Secretary Taylor, supported by Trustee Bourque, to set an across the board salary increase at 2% for the 2006 budget year. Motion supported by Secretary Taylor, Trustee Bourque, and Chair Calder. Motion denied by Trustee Lux because increase does not reflect current cost of living.

8. New Business

Motion by Trustee Bourque, supported by Trustee Lux, to approve payment of the bills for the month ending October 31, 2005 in the amount of $477,006. Motion carried.

Motion by Secretary Taylor, supported by Trustee Lux, to approve issuing a 13 th check for eligible retirees. Motion carried.

Motion by Secretary Taylor, supported by Trustee Bourque, to adopt the Director's Workplan for 2006. Motion carried.

Motion by Secretary Taylor, supported by Trustee Lux, to approve the Board Meeting Schedule for 2006 as presented with Ellis as the meeting place for August 2006 if a meeting happens to be scheduled. Motion carried.

Motion by Trustee Bourque, supported by Trustee Lux, to set the Holiday Closing Schedule for 2006 as presented. Holidays falling on a weekend can be taken as a floating holiday. Motion carried.

Motion by Secretary Taylor, supported by Trustee Bourque, to continue the Fine Friendly First Friday fine amnesty program for 2006. The program started in March 2005 netted nearly $6,000 for charities. Motion carried

Motion by Trustee Bourque, supported by Trustee Lux, to close all library branches for a half day, the morning of December 8, for professional development training for staff. Motion carried.

Motion by Trustee Bourque, supported by Trustee Lux, to honor Senator Bev Hammerstrom at a reception prior to the board meeting on January 9, 2006 at Ellis. Senator Hammerstrom is serving her last year in the Senate and has given a lot of service for libraries. Motion carried. She was recently honored by the Michigan Library Association for "Legislator of the Year", but was unable to attend the luncheon in her honor.

9. Director's Report

Director Colpaert gave a brief report because she has been busy preparing the budget for next year. Writer's on the River yesterday, November 13 th was wonderful. The air was full of electricity; authors were excited to talk about their books to fans. The new assistant technology trainers will spend a day each month in every branch teaching classes to the public. The classes will accommodate six people, one for each available laptop. A schedule will be posted soon on the Internet.

The budget will be available for public review on December 1, 2006 and adopted at the board meeting on Monday, December 19 th .

10. Board Comments

Board members congratulated Director Colpaert and her staff for their work on the budget.

11. Public Comment - none.

12. Announcements

Date of Next Board Meeting - Monday, December 19, 2005 @ 6:00 p.m., at the Ellis Reference and Information Center, 3700 South Custer Road, Monroe, MI.

13. Adjournment

Motion by Trustee Lux, supported by Secretary Taylor, to adjourn the meeting at 6:42 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth J. Taylor, Secretary

Catharine Calder, Chairperson