

**MONROE COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM
BOARD OF TRUSTEES BUDGET WORKSHOP**

1. At a Budget Workshop of the Board of Trustees of the Monroe County Library System held on November 15, 2006 at 5:00 p.m. at the Ellis Reference and Information Center, the meeting was called to order by Chairperson Cathe' Calder. Roll call by Secretary Betsy Taylor as follows:

Present: Catharine Calder, Chair; Laurence Gregory, Vice-Chair; Elizabeth Taylor, Secretary; Fred Lux, Trustee; MaryAnn Bourque, Trustee; Nancy Colpaert, Director; and Diane Ohlemacher, Recording Secretary.

Staff: Nancy Bellaire

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

2. Motion by Vice-Chair Gregory, supported by Trustee Calder, to accept the agenda as presented. Motion carried.
3. Public Comment – None.
4. Budget Workshop

Director Colpaert said the goal of this workshop is to look at the draft budget for 2007 which will be prepared for the public to view by December 1st, and presented for adoption at the budget hearing and board meeting on December 18th.

Review status of 2006 budget. 80% of the year has passed with 104.5% of anticipated revenues received. Expenditures include a \$300,000 additional principal payment made on the Ellis building.

In terms of revenue, we are expecting a 5% increase for 2007 in property taxes. Penal fines are budgeted at the same amount as 2006. State aid should increase this year to 39.68 cents per capita. Contractual services are also a source of income. There is a decrease in income from the 2006-2007 Woodlands Library Cooperative contracts due to anticipated workload changes with the new system. The City of Monroe reimburses us for maintenance on the city branch libraries. Total income is projected at \$7.4 million. We anticipate receiving a \$39,000 Gates grant at the end of this year to purchase computers in 2008.

In expenditure assumptions, wages and fringes total 67% of the 2007 budget. Committees talked about a wage increase for staff; the draft budget was prepared with a 3.3% cost of living for 2007. Pages received an increase in the minimum wage in October and will not receive an increase in January. Motion by Trustee Calder, supported by Trustee Bourque, to give staff a 3.3% salary increase for 2007. Motion carried. Motion by Secretary Taylor, supported by Vice-Chair Gregory, to keep the board remuneration at \$50 per board meeting. Motion carried.

We have seen an impact on our budget due to healthcare and retiree healthcare insurance premiums. BCBS for retirees on Medicare increased 33%. Staff insurance BCBS PPO increased 13%. In the retiree health care actuarial valuation for 2006, required contribution rose from 19.83% to 22.61% in 2007. Cost saving measures have been put in place; current employees must work 20 years to be eligible for 100% of retiree health care, previously it was 8 years.

No new positions were created in the 2007 budget. No additional personnel will be required at the Roessler Street Building.

Capital Outlay includes additional servers for technology. Furnishings were not included for the Service Center and will require a transfer from the reserve account at a later date.

The budget includes \$250,000 for principal and interest on the Roessler Street Building.

The board discussed a new early literary program being considered by the ISD. Matching funds are needed. Motion by Trustee Calder, supported by Secretary Taylor, to approve a \$5,000 grant for Imagination Library ISD. Motion carried.

6. Board Comments

Board members thanked Director Colpaert and her staff for a good job preparing the budget. It is difficult to spend money wisely and estimate accurately, consciously making the right decisions.

7. Public Comment – none

8. Announcements – Date of Next Board Meeting – Monday, December 18, 2006, 6:00 p.m., Ellis Reference and Information Center.

9. Adjournment

Motion by Trustee Bourque, supported by Vice Chair Gregory meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Taylor, Secretary

Fred Lux, Chairperson