

**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 June 10, 2020, at the Mary K. Daume Library Service Center and via Microsoft Teams Teleconference, the meeting was called to order by Chair Smith at 5:04 p.m. Mr. Grodi declared that a quorum was available to participate.

Present: Bernie Smith, Chair; Cathe Calder, Vice-Chair; Mike Grodi, Secretary; and Nancy Bellaire, Director

Attending via Teams Teleconference: Maryanne Bourque; and Beth LaPensee, Trustees

Staff: Barbra Krueger; Lou Komorowski

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

2. Motion by Cathe Calder, supported by Mike Grodi, to approve the agenda. Motion carried.
3. Motion by Mike Grodi, supported by Cathe Calder, to approve the minutes of the May 13, 2020 meeting. Motion carried.
4. Public Comment  
Ellis Reference Supervisor Lou Komorowski spoke to the board regarding the current pandemic. He expressed some concern that the staff is still adapting and learning how to protect each other from the Coronavirus while planning for patron interaction in our buildings. He thanked the board for allowing us to take the time necessary to prepare for the safe transition to “indoor” public service.
5. Consent Agenda – Motion by Mike Grodi, supported by Cathe Calder, to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried.
6. Deborah Sabo of Cooley, Sabo, & Calkins, reviewed the audit report and accompanying letters with the board. She noted that it was a clean opinion, the highest opinion you can get. She thanked Sandy Calkins and Nancy Bellaire for their assistance in preparing for the field work. She noted that this year there was an increase of \$237,916 to our fund balance from year end 2018 to 2019. The board thanked Ms. Sabo for the presentation and for attending the meeting.

7. Committee Reports

**Finance Committee** – Ms. Bellaire reported that we have received about 82% of our projected income for this year, including about 95% of our tax levy. We have spent nearly 38% of our planned expenditures with 41.6% of the year complete.

**Facilities Committee** – No meeting.

**Policy and Personnel Committee** – No meeting.

**Technology Committee** – No meeting.

**Woodlands Update** – No meeting. The Woodlands Advisory Council will meet virtually on June 18.

**Legislative Update** – We are awaiting the report from the Governor’s work group on reopening libraries.

8. Unfinished Business – Tax Tribunal Appeal Cost Sharing. An agreement has been reached for the DTE tax appeal regarding the Monroe Power Plant. There has been no request for cost sharing for legal fees to date.

9. New Business–Motion by Cathe Calder, supported by Mike Grodi, to approve bills for the month ending March 31, 2020, in the amount of \$203,232.88. Motion carried.  
Motion by Cathe Calder, supported by Mike Grodi, to approve bills for the month ending April 30, 2020, in the amount of \$550,466.89. Motion carried.  
Chair Smith surveyed the board members regarding committee assignments. She announced that committees will remain the same as 2019, with the addition of Beth LaPensee as Technology Committee Chair and Woodlands Representative.  
Motion by Mike Grodi, supported by Cathe Calder, to receive the Financial Report for the year ending December 31, 2019, and place it on file. Motion carried.  
The draft Telecommuting Policy was tabled until next month so that board members may have additional time to review the document.  
Motion by Maryanne Bourque, supported by Mike Grodi, to approve the reopening plan as prepared by Foster Swift. Motion carried. Cathe Calder said that the board has confidence in the decisions of the Executive Director.  
Motion by Mike Grodi, supported by Maryanne Bourque, to authorize Nancy Bellaire to apply for CARES Act funding for PPE and tablets with the understanding that the tablets would provide filtered access to the Internet for the duration of the grant period only. All Library Equipment would remain as it is. Motion carried.  
Motion by Cathe Calder, supported by Mike Grodi, to adopt the Urban Libraries Council’s Statement on Race and Social Equity. Motion carried.

10. Director Bellaire thanked the board for their thoughtful work on tonight's agenda items. She said that our first State Aid distribution in the amount of \$59,515.62 arrived this month. The fate of the second State Aid payment is unknown. There are still no final recommendations from the Governor specifically on reopening libraries. For the purposes of reopening, libraries will now be classified under the larger category of Entertainment, Travel, and Tourism—then under the Arts and Culture division. Ms. Bellaire also shared a copy of a sample ballot for the August 4, primary election with the board.
11. Board Comments  
Mike Grodi thanked MCLS for helping him apply for a Monroe County Environmental Grant for Erie Township, particularly Rob Strimbel for his professionalism in helping with the installation. Cathe Calder thanked the staff for their work on the plans and policies, which is particularly important when there are so many unknowns. Beth LaPensee said that everyone's work has been fantastic. She said that she feels for the staff and she is so pleased to see everyone working on these topics together. Bernie Smith thanked Nancy for the great audit. She said that she is also so impressed with the staff and knows that we will take the right steps to open safely.
12. Public comment—Barbra Krueger shared information about the 2020 Summer Reading Program, which will be very different than any previous years. Children will be able to pick up bags of books with activities, customized by each branch. The bags will be separated into three categories depending on the age of the child. She also updated the Board on a COVID Resource Bag, provided by the Community Foundation of Monroe that contained gloves, sanitizer, and a no-touch thermometer.
13. Announcements  
Date of Next Board Meeting – Wednesday, July 8, 2020 at 5 p.m. at the Mary K. Daume Library Service Center, Monroe, MI.
14. Adjournment  
Motion by Mike Grodi, supported by Maryanne Bourque to adjourn the meeting at 6:12 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

---

Mike Grodi, Secretary

---

Bernie Smith, Chair