

**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 December 9, 2020 at the Mary K. Library Service Center and via Microsoft Teams Videoconference, the meeting was called to order by Chair Smith at 5:05 p.m. Secretary Grodi called roll.

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

Staff: Lou Komorowski; Barbra Krueger

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

2. Motion by Ms. Calder, supported by Mr. Grodi, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.
3. Motion by Beth LaPensee, supported by Cathe Calder, to approve the minutes of the November 18, 2020 board meeting. Motion carried.
4. Motion by Secretary Grodi, supported by Vice-Chair Calder, to open the public Hearing on the Proposed 2021 Budget at 5:08 p.m. Motion carried. The budget has been available at all branch libraries and a notice of tonight's hearing was published in the Monroe News. There was no public comment. Motion by Secretary Grodi, supported by Trustee LaPensee, to close the public hearing at 5:10 p.m. Motion carried.
5. There was no public comment.
6. Consent Agenda – Motion by Beth LaPensee, supported by Cathe Calder, to accept the items on the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried.
7. Committee Reports
 - Finance Committee** – Ms. Calder reported that your packet includes penal fine totals for 2020, and that there are a few year-end budget transfers on the agenda for approval tonight.
 - Facilities Committee** – No meeting. Mr. Grodi reported that the window replacement at Ellis is complete.
 - Policy and Personnel Committee** – No meeting. Cathe Calder asked if COVID-19 vaccines would be required for MCLS employees. Chair Smith asked Nancy Bellaire to check with the Library of Michigan and/or Foster Swift to see if there is a recommendation on this matter and report back at the January meeting.
 - Technology Committee** – No meeting.

Woodlands Update – Nancy Bellaire will attend the Woodlands Advisory Council meeting on Thursday, December 17. Beth LaPensee reported that the Woodlands Governing Board received and accepted their annual audit. It was a “clean” audit. They also viewed a presentation from MERS, The Michigan Employees’ Retirement System.

Legislative Update – No update.

8. Unfinished Business – None.

Motion by Ms. Calder, supported by Ms. LaPensee, to approve the resolution concerning 2020 year-end budget adjustments. Motion carried.

Motion by Mike Grodi, supported by Beth LaPensee, to adopt the resolution regarding the proposed budget for 2021. Motion carried.

Motion by Cathe Calder, supported by Beth LaPensee, to appoint Bernie Smith to the MCLS Retiree Health Care Board for a one-year term. Motion carried.

Motion by Mike Grodi, supported by Beth LaPensee, to extend the two-week Emergency Sick Leave provisions for 2021, to mirror the 2020 provisions, unless replaced by State or Federal action. Motion carried.

9. Mrs. Bellaire updated the board on the temporary modifications to Michigan’s Open Meetings Act and reported that the January meeting will take place using Zoom to allow for easier participation from the public. She said that the Monroe County Commissioners will consider Rob Peven’s application to the MCLS board on December 15.

10. Comments

The board exchanged best wishes for the holidays and thanked Nancy Bellaire and staff for their work on the budget. Beth LaPensee asked Barbra to thank the Fun at Work committee again for the thank you booklet. She encouraged the board members to contact our State Representatives in Washington, DC, to support including libraries in the next round of COVID relief legislation. Cathe Calder thanked the Fun at Work committee also, and said that she found the messages to be touching and the book well executed. She said that she was pleased to hear that MCLS would be offering the Ryan Dowd Homeless training for staff. Mike Grodi agreed that the thank you book was moving and that it was a testament to the staff as well as the board. Bernie Smith thanked Nancy and the board. She said that in a world that has been filled with so many negative things, this year, though difficult, has been a very productive year. She thanked all for taking care of the MCLS people and the Institution.

11. Public Comment—Barbra Krueger shared a thank you from a Douglas Road Elementary School teacher to Bedford’s Youth Staff for providing a 4th Grade book club. She also suggested that board members take a look at our line-up of holiday programs and pointed out that they had made sure to consider our diverse populations when planning the programs. She said the MCLS had been the recipient of a generous donation that allowed hats, gloves, and scarves to be included in the Take and Make kits distributed by Navarre Branch Staff. She also shared information about a planned Story Walk and a program called Seek, Spy, and Read on by—a “Great Start” program created by partner agencies including MCLS.

12. Announcements

Date of Next Board Meeting – Wednesday, January 13, 2021 @ 5 p.m. at the Mary K. Daume Library Service Center and via Zoom Videoconference, Monroe, Michigan

13. Adjournment

Motion by Mike Grodi, supported by Cathe Calder to adjourn the meeting at 5:41 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Grodi, Secretary

Bernie Smith, Chair