

**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 April 10, 2024, at the Bedford Branch Library, the meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Peven at 5:06 p.m. He declared that a quorum was available to participate.

Present: Vice-Chair, Rob Peven; Beth LaPensee, Secretary; Bernie Smith, Trustee, and Nancy Bellaire, Director

Excused: Catharine Calder, Chair; Rita Gordon, Trustee

Staff: Barbra Krueger; Lou Komorowski, Jill Bennett, Jodi Russ, Stephanie Wintersteen

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

2. Motion by Beth LaPensee, supported by Bernie Smith, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.
3. Motion by Bernie Smith, supported by Beth LaPensee, to approve the minutes of the March 13, 2024 meeting. Motion carried.
4. Public Comment – Community Librarian Jodi Russ welcomed the board to Bedford. She shared some historical photos and plans for the branch including community room kitchenette updates and an EV charging station. Bedford Friends of the Library President Grace Walsh described her delight in finding the Bedford Branch when she moved into the area. She spoke of recent and upcoming Friends projects. Barbra Krueger introduced board members from the Directions Credit Union who were on hand to donate a symbolic check for \$3000 in support of the Summer Reading Program. The actual check has been received and deposited.
5. Consent Agenda – Motion by Beth LaPensee, supported by Bernie Smith, to approve the items on the consent agenda and place them on file. Motion carried.
6. Committee Reports
  - Finance Committee** – March financial reports show that almost 80 percent of our expected revenue has arrived and we have spent about 25.4% of our planned expenditures with 25% of the year behind us. We do not yet have the April penal fine information.
  - Facilities Committee** – No meeting. Trustee Smith indicated that she plans to schedule a meeting before the May meeting.
  - Policy and Personnel Committee** – No meeting.
  - Technology Committee** – No meeting.
  - Woodlands Update** – MCLS' Woodlands representative was unable to attend the last Governing board meeting and the minutes are unavailable at this time. Nancy Bellaire will attend the Advisory Council meeting on April 18.

**Legislative Update** – The bookmobile staff will accompany Nancy and Barbra on their trip to Lansing for Legislative Day on April 16.

7. Unfinished Business – Motion by Bernie Smith, supported by Beth LaPensee, to table the reorganization of the MCLS Board of Trustees and committee assignments until next month when all members are present. Motion carried.
8. New Business–Motion by Beth LaPensee, supported by Bernie Smith, to approve payment of the bills for the month ending March 31, 2024, in the amount of \$396,526.63. Motion carried.  
Motion by Bernie Smith, supported by Beth LaPensee, to approve the purchase of a 2024 Maverick Hybrid truck. Motion carried.
9. Staff Report – Barbra Krueger introduced Erie/Luna Pier Youth Services Technician, Jill Bennett. Jill distributed information about the “Reading Dragons” reading program for children and the successful GROW Grant application that Jill submitted last year for the Back-to-School Bingo program.
10. Director Bellaire shared information on short videos now being created by staff, the upcoming Father Cairns Park rededication, and the recent the PLA conference.
11. Board Comments  
The board said that they were glad to be in Bedford and thanked Jodi, Grace, Jill, and Barbra for their reports. Rob Peven said that the Bedford Branch truly feels like the living room of the community. He asked if the podcast recording equipment is available yet for use. Nancy Bellaire said that the equipment has arrived and will be set up in the small Ellis Conference Room once the FEMA disaster relief staff have vacated the space.
12. Public comment—None.
13. Announcements  
Date of Next Board Meeting – Wednesday, May 8, 2024 at 5 p.m. at the South Rockwood Branch Library, 5676 Carleton Rockwood Road, South Rockwood, MI.
14. Adjournment  
Motion by Beth LaPensee, supported by Bernie Smith, to adjourn the meeting at 5:48 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

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Rob Peven, Vice-Chair

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Beth LaPensee, Secretary