

**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 January 10, 2024, at the Ellis Library & Reference Center, the meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Peven at 5:00 p.m. Ms. LaPensee declared that a quorum was present.

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

Excused: Catharine Calder, Chair

Staff: Lou Komorowski; Barbra Krueger; Regina Manning; Jenn McCarty; Marsha Langenderfer

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

2. Motion by Rita Gordon, supported by Bernie Smith, to approve the agenda as amended to include the amount under Bills to be Paid. Motion carried.
3. Motion by Beth LaPensee, supported by Bernie Smith, to approve the minutes of the December 13, 2023. Motion carried.
4. Motion by Rita Gordon, supported by Beth LaPensee, to approve the minutes of the Special Board meeting and Public Hearing, December 28, 2023. Motion carried.
5. Public Comment
Lou Komorowski welcomed the board to Ellis and introduced Circulation Manager, Jenn McCarty and Reference Librarian, Regina Manning. Regina updated the board on our Biblioboard digital content project, including the “Memories of Orchard East” project. Jenn shared information about upcoming programs and partnerships at Ellis.
6. Board of Trustees Reorganization
Motion by Trustee Smith, supported by Trustee Gordon, to postpone the election of officers until the full board is present. Motion carried.
7. Consent Agenda – Motion by Trustee Gordon, supported by Secretary LaPensee, to accept the items on the consent agenda including the financial reports as presented, and place on file. Motion carried.

8. Committee Reports

Finance Committee – Nancy Bellaire reported that our year-end financial report shows that we have received about 99% of our expected revenue, but this amount includes a December deposit that will actually count toward our 2024 revenues. As of December 31, we have spent about 88% of our planned expenditures for 2023. Penal Fine revenue is the lowest received in January since the beginning of the spreadsheet, 1991. The auditors plan to be on site in late January.

Facilities Committee – No meeting.

Policy and Personnel Committee – No meeting.

Technology Committee – No meeting.

Woodlands Update – No news from Woodlands this month. Nancy will provide the minutes from the Woodlands Governing Board meetings in future months.

9. Unfinished Business – None.

10. New Business - Motion by Bernie Smith, supported by Beth LaPensee, to approve payment of the bills for the month ending December 31, 2023 in the amount of \$248,233.92. Motion carried.

Discussion regarding 2024 Board Committee assignments was tabled until the next meeting.

11. Barbra Krueger said that this is a year of milestones and celebrations for MCLS. In 2024, we will celebrate 90 years as the Monroe County Library System; this will be the 37th annual Blues series; Carleton is celebrating 30 years in the “new” library building; This is the 10th anniversary of our 1000 Books Before Kindergarten program; and Korri, our bookmobile will be 5 years old on April 10.

12. Nancy Bellaire updated the board on the 2024 Blues Series, a new electronic door closure for the main doors at Ellis, a new drop box for Frenchtown-Dixie, and portable video production equipment that arrived last week. She said that Maintenance Department Head Rob Strimbel is seeking quotes on a small truck that will allow us to retire our oldest vehicle, a 2002 Dodge Caravan.

13. Board comments – The board thanked Lou, Regina, and Jenn for their hospitality and updates. They expressed their amazement and appreciation for all of the activities planned for 2024. Rita Gordon said that she also is in awe of what we have to offer. She noted that these offerings confirm her decision to become a part of the board. Beth LaPensee said that she is looking forward to all of the celebrations. Rob Peven said that he seconds all of the compliments surrounding the celebrations and said that the Library is truly a great asset for the County.

14. Public comment—none.

15. Announcements

Date of Next Board Meeting – Wednesday, March 13, @ 5 p.m. at the Vivian Branch Library, 2664 Vivian Rd, Monroe, Michigan.

16. Adjournment

Motion by Rita Gordon, supported by Beth LaPensee to adjourn the meeting at 5:28 p.m.
Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Rob Peven, Vice-Chair

Beth LaPensee, Secretary