

# **TIPPECANOE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY**

## REGULAR BOARD MEETING

627 South Street, Lafayette, Indiana

**February 5, 2019**

### **MINUTES**

Notice of the date, time, place and agenda for this meeting was posted in prominent public view at the Library and mailed to requesting media on Thursday, January 31, 2019 in conformity with the Indiana Open Meeting Act.

#### **PRESENT:**

Lora Goonewardene, President  
Gail Summers, Vice-President  
Dave Lahr, Treasurer  
Stephen Bultinck, Secretary  
Brandon Hawkins, Member  
Mary Springer, Member

#### **ABSENT:**

Mida Grover, Member

#### **GUESTS**

Harry Mohler, Architect  
Jos N. Holman, County Librarian

President Lora Goonewardene chaired the regular Board meeting and called it to order at 7:02 p.m. A quorum was declared to conduct business for the library.

Board member Brandon Hawkins led the Board in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board Secretary Steve Bultinck moved the **Board Minutes** of January 2<sup>nd</sup> be approved as presented. Board Treasurer Dave Lahr provided a second and the motion passed.

Under the heading of the **County Librarian's Report**, Mr. Holman reported on three items related to library operations. He shared the TCPL Foundation Board of Directors met on January 22<sup>nd</sup>. The Foundation elected officers for 2019. Chase Newsom of Stifel Nicolaus, an investment firm, will serve as Foundation Board President. Other officers include Rita Smith as Secretary, Prella McBride as Vice President, and Richard Carson as Treasurer. The Foundation received its first report on the 2018 Annual Appeal. Thus far annual contributions are just under \$10,000. Next Mr. Holman, reported on a bill in the Indiana House of Representatives that directly relates to public libraries. House bill 1343 focuses on the budget of public libraries and would subject libraries to binding review by an elected fiscal body. Another major element of the bill is that library boards would become elected instead of appointed. The bill also revises the approach and approval for additional appropriation for public libraries. The Indiana Library Federation (ILF) Advocacy committee does not support the bill. Finally, Mr. Holman indicated TCPL was open both days of the extremely cold weather on January 30-31. Though use of the building was understandably less than normal during operational hours, TCPL offered the opportunity for library resources to be used. Neal Starkey thought to provide coffee and hot chocolate during open hours. Through Facebook, this

impromptu action reached 14,000 people, more than any other post ever done by TCPL. Conversely, the cold temperatures negatively impacted the Mobile Library which could not be started on Thursday afternoon. Professional Technicians suggested the situation may be caused by water in the fuel lines. Outreach staff cancelled evening routes for three days.

Mr. Hawkins moved to approve the February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019 **Personnel Actions**. Mr. Bultinck seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Under the heading of **Committee Reports**, Facilities chair Brandon Hawkins presented an update on the South branch project. He shared members of the Facilities and Finance committees met with representatives of Kettelhut. He reminded the Board it chose to take a Construction Manager at Risk approach to the South branch project. Mr. Hawkins also reminded the Board of its goal to provide services to the southern part of the library district. He talked about the total bid cost for the South branch and two specific areas, masonry and earthwork, which increased tremendously. He mentioned the recommended “value engineered” items were reviewed along with two construction alternates for the project. Mr. Hawkins indicated with the submitted bids expiring in 60 days, the Board must decide on the bids no later than its March 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. Circumstances dictate options are to reduce the building size where it is not functional in the way intended or to reject the bids and bid the project again. From a Finance committee perspective, Board Treasurer Dave Lahr indicated there are other project costs beyond the amount just to construct the building. There is only \$4.4 million left of the \$4.5 million bond. Additional dollars (approximately \$500,000) are also needed for the materials collection and furniture, fixtures, and equipment. Possible sources include the TCPL Foundation, grants, gifts, and an additional appropriation with approval of the County Council as a fiscal body. The Board will need to reach consensus about the whole project. The Board further discussed the topic under Old Business.

Under the heading **Other Reports**, there was no Friends report. Friends President Janet Bessler was not in attendance at the meeting. Also, under **Other Reports**, the County Librarian suggested delaying the scheduled Hoopla Statistics demonstration based on the anticipated lengthy discussion on the status of the South Branch.

Under the heading of **Old Business**, the Board deliberated the status of the South branch project. After carefully considering the possibility of going through another bid process, the Board reached consensus on four things: 1. Firm up the financial options, 2. Determine how much might be appropriated from the Rainy Day Fund, 3. Discuss a one-time gift with the TCPL Foundation, and 4. Have members of the Finance and Facilities Committee meet to further discuss the options and make a recommendation to the full Board. The Board also decided it would schedule a second meeting in February to deliberate and seek a consensus on what should be done. The County Librarian will schedule the meeting using the “When is Good” application. To accompany this approach, Mr. Bultinck moved to allow the Finance Committee on behalf of the Board to determine the dollar amount

to be requested from the Foundation. Mr. Hawkins seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Under the heading of **New Business**, the County Librarian provided background on TCPL's participation as an employer in the state based retirement plan. Each year the Board considers the rate communicated by the Indiana Public Retirement System (INPRS). The INPRS Board of Directors approved a composite employer contribution rate of 11.2% effective January 1, 2019. This rate is the same as 2018 and has been the same rate since 2015. Mr. Lahr moved to adopt 11.2% as the 2019 INPRS rate. Vice President Gail Summers provided a second and the motion passed.

Under the heading of **Other Business**, Board Treasurer Dave Lahr moved to approve the grand total of the claims listing presented by the County Librarian starting with claim number 28231 through 28343. The prewritten claims were \$241,387.30 and the regular claims were \$192,699.64 for a grand total of \$434,086.94. Mr. Hawkins seconded the motion and it passed.

A couple of additional items happened under **Other Business**. President Goonewardene indicated the topic of Committee Assignments would be tabled until the next meeting. Under **Comments from the Public**, local architect Harry Mohler shared several thoughts regarding funding the South branch construction project. Mr. Mohler suggested the Board explore alternative funding streams to raise additional dollars and also that the Board consider rebidding parts of the project. President Goonewardene thanked Mr. Mohler for his comments.

Mrs. Summers moved to adjourn the regular Board meeting at 7:57 p.m. Mr. Bultinck seconded the motion and it carried.

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Stephen Bultinck, Secretary

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