

**LINCOLN COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
LIBBY BRANCH & ZOOM
TUESDAY, JUNE 11, 2024**

Trustees Present: Barb Hvizdak, Annie Gassmann, Kerri Teisberg, Laura Finley (Zoom)

Others Present: Alyssa Ramirez (Director LCL) (Zoom), Siri Larsen (Eureka Branch Librarian) (Zoom), Sharee Miller (Troy Branch Librarian) (Zoom), Ray Stout

Call to Order: Hvizdak called today's meeting to order at 4:10pm.

Public Comment: N/A

Approval of the agenda: Gassmann made a motion to approve the agenda as amended with a closed session added, seconded by Finley; approved.

Work Session:

Primary Election Results:

- 1000+ votes added yesterday—took time to count (needed more work to verify authenticity)
- Gained 15 votes and closed the difference to 60 votes
- Melanie heard comments that there were a lot of asks for taxes on the ballot
- We were on the back side of the ballot—hierarchy of items on ballot is set by the state
 - There were instructions to vote both sides

Future Direction/Plans for the Library:

- Budget negotiations have just started
- Have stated they would fund 24-25 but do not know what levels
- We know for certain that we will be funded at 3.49 mills but not beyond that
- Lincoln County has voted and that we should go down to only the 3.49 mills
- New commissioner could change things—but not in office until after the budget is finalized
- Conversation with commissioners about how to move forward
 - Need to set up a work session meeting with commissioners
- FY funding ends June 30, unknown beyond that—need to plan for contingencies
- Need to be conservative in finances until we know what is going on
- Like idea of full board to present at budget meetings (with two new board members)
- Talked to Melanie about trying a second time—cannot be on the November ballot (want that to be only government—nothing extra on fall ballot)
 - Earliest would be fall of '25 with other municipal elections—cost could be prohibitive—could tag on to other elections and share the cost with the other entities
 - Dates are dictated as to how soon you can run again
- Possibility of doing 3 budgets: 1. Only 3.49 mills, 2. Something in the middle ground, 3. Full budget

- Alyssa talked to Dallas—HR concerns; reduction in workforce; employees need to be noticed 30-60 days, and then payouts for leave
- Facebook posts about district loss and concern of branch closure (people don't believe it's really going to happen)
- Very probable thing to have to close/reduce force
- Do we get creative and get a library van?
- Reduction in hours to see what that can get for us as far as budgeting
- Talk to Tracy and see what our options are—if we can't meet the 40 hours service hours—deferments
- Cutting hours could make us lose our state aid because we are not meeting standards
- Other option—cutting a position in Libby (the vacancy) could save us money
- Options: closing Libby and keeping Troy and Eureka open; closing Eureka and Libby and building TLOC and running a bookmobile
 - TLOC operating costs would be cheaper with upgrades
- Bills in each branch, have to have membership costs, etc.—get those into a budget
- Commissioners are making us do this by cutting our budget--If they do this to us, who is next?
- Meet with them and see how to proceed—What can we expect?
 - What is their level of support should we go for the district again?
 - When to meet? June 26th try to get on commissioners agenda—fill the room! Get the community to come to the meeting in person!
 - Barb will schedule meeting
 - High school in Eureka has reached out to say they are willing to help us out
- New board members invited to work session with Tracy on the 27th so they can meet her

Citizen Comment on Library Materials:

- Received a citizen comment on materials
- Need to set up committee and they will determine how to proceed
 - 2 staff: Alyssa, Adam
 - 2 board members: Annie, Barb
 - Community person: TBD (by end of next week)
- Form will be given to be filled out and book will be passed around and reviewed
- Committee will make recommendation to the board—looking at July board meeting

Closed Session: Hiring

5:09pm-5:48pm

Conclusion/Wrap Up

Alyssa put together a survey for staff input on the future direction of the library.

Housekeeping

- Board Meetings
 - June 27, Libby
 - July 25, Eureka
 - August 22, Troy

- Library Calendar
 - July 4, Independence Day
 - August 30, Staff Meeting

Adjourn

Finley made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:50pm, seconded by Gassmann; approved.