

Library Board Meeting Minutes, November 10, 2016

Attending Board Members: Ron Erickson, Sharon Foss, Adrienne Gyllen, Shirley Miller-Frey, Annie Minich, and Wendy Peterson

Absent Board Members: Arne Carlson and Liesel Virchow

Others attending: Library Director Sarah Adams

President Foss called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. and stated the purpose of the meeting was to review the budget and determine whether and what kind of response was needed to Mayor Blesi's proposed 2017 St. Croix Falls budget allocation for the Library.

Continuing Business

Budget

Sarah reviewed some possible cuts to the Library Board's draft 2017 budget to allow it to work within the Mayor's proposed allocation. One clerk is leaving in August 2017 so not filling that position will lower wages and benefits.

Another possible change in benefits may be clear when the City Council approves the revised Employee Handbook. The Council is expected to review the revised Employee Handbook on Nov. 14 with approval expected on Nov. 28. If approved as currently written, employees working 34 hours/week will be eligible for health insurance. Two additional employees would be eligible for health insurance starting September 1, 2017. Depending on the Council's action and the employee's choices whether to accept health insurance, budget costs could go up or down, but not by very much. We also discussed whether the cost of Holiday pay could be lowered, and Sarah will look at this line to see if there could be savings. Other cuts were proposed in materials, laptop replacement, maintenance, etc.

Sharon asked the Board if it thinks we should advocate for a higher allocation from the City. There was discussion about how to ask for more money. A suggestion was made to show how the cuts would affect the operation of the Library. Sarah reminded the Council how the Library is currently not meeting the Basic level of annual expenditures for books and other circulating items. This is due to long-term underfunding of the Library.

There was discussion about a large amount of back pay and building insurance that was paid out of the 2016 budget, and requiring the Library to pay for building insurance when it was paid out of City funds in 2015 and prior years. With insurance paid out of the Library's budget, the cut in the City's budget allocation to the Library is approximately 12.5%.

Ron made the following motion: Ron and Sharon will prepare and deliver a letter to the Mayor and City Council requesting additional funding for the Library in 2017. The motion was seconded by Sharon and passed. The Letter will be distributed to the Library Board electronically by 11/17. Board members will call their Aldermen/Alderwomen. The letter will also be distributed to the Friends of the Library president.

The Meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Submitted by Ron Erickson, 11/11/16