

The Butler Public Library Board of Trustees Minutes February 1, 2018

Meeting called to order: by Camille Piccirillo at 6:04 P. M.

The required posting was made in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

Roll Call:

Present: Robert Alviene, H. Donargo, Nancy Moody, C. Piccirillo, and Luis Rodriguez (Library Director, ex-officio).

Excused: M. Cardinale, M. Hanisch, & B. Karpowich.

Minutes:

N. Moody motioned that the minutes of the November 2, 2017 meeting be approved as submitted to the Board. R. Alviene seconded the motion. The Board approved the minutes as submitted (N. Moody abstained).

President's Comments

In December, the President met with James Kozimor and spoke at a Council meeting to discuss the Library's financial situation. She is waiting to hear from Mr. Kozimor as to when she can meet with the Borough Council's Finance Committee.

She also asked the Board to think about ideas on ways to raise funds for the Library.

She also said that her boss donated a book he wrote to the Library and is coming in April to talk about the book, which is a motivational business book.

Director's Report:

The Director gave out his written report. He highlighted some items from the report:

- Program attendance has been good.

- He has been compiling reports on the circulation statistics for newly purchased books in different collections. He will share the reports with the Board. He said that, by and large, the materials the Library purchases get many circulations. His sense is that if the Library purchased more items, Butler patrons will take them out.

- The Library has started book clubs for middle and high school students. The middle school book club has members but the high school club has not had any students

attending.

- The Library does not have enough money in its checking account to pay the Borough for the checks it cuts on the Library's behalf. Once the Library gets its first quarter mil rate funds from the Borough it will be able to reimburse the Borough.

R. Alviene motioned and N. Moody seconded the motion to approve the Director's report.

Treasurer's Report

L. Rodriguez reported the balance in the checking account is around \$14,000. The list of bills to be paid was circulated for Board approval as well.

Voting to approve the report was tabled until the next meeting.

Old Business

The Mayor asked the projections of revenue in the 2018 be more realistic. He was concerned about the deficit in last year's budget. The Director pointed out that the Board approved using \$30,000 in the Imandt Fund [as shown in the minutes of several meetings] and it was the Director's recollection that the Board continued to be unclear on whether or not to use the amount. If the Imandt Fund monies approved in the 2017 budget had been transferred to the budget the 2017 budget expenditures would have been very close to what the Board approved.

The Director pointed out that the Library cannot survive on what it is currently getting in its mil rate. It can reduce what it spends on materials (books, DVDs) but those are being used and reducing what we purchase may not be what the residents of Butler want.

The Mayor said that the Library should do what other libraries are doing. The Director pointed out that 12 municipalities in Morris County gave their libraries more than the mil rate so it is not unheard of for a municipality to give extra monies (or services) to its public library.

The Mayor said that the Board is not trying to cut back on programs, but there are monies to use, such as the Imandt Fund. The Director said the Fund can only be used to purchase books.

The Mayor said that not everyone supports the Library and he gets requests from departments and he does not want to "tax" people out of the Borough. The Director said that the amount the Library is asking for, out of a \$6 million budget is a "sneeze." He also said that the Borough budget has been going up and that the Borough Council is fine with approving those increases. The Mayor said that the 2% increase is due to negotiated salary increases. The Director said

that it is decision not to provide additional monies to the Library will mean that the Library will eventually close.

N. Moody asked if these libraries were comparable to Butler. The Director said that the Wharton Library received \$20,000 for its borough, over and above the mil rate.

The President said that the Library does not have a reserve fund to cover any emergencies or the hiring of a new Director who would most likely need his or her health insurance covered and be paid a salary comparable to what other MAIN directors receive.

The Mayor again repeated that he has to keep taxes where they are. The Director then said that the increase in taxes for the additional money to keep the Library is low (\$10 a year) but not having a library will lead to a loss in what a person receives when they sell their house - the tax increase has to be judged balanced against the reduction in what a Butler resident gets for selling his or her house. The Mayor then mentioned that the Borough provides the lowest electricity in the State and that the water and electrical utilities make money for the Borough.

Nancy asked what is needed to move forward. The President said that she is waiting to meet with the Finance Committee as the next step. The plan is to ask the Borough for \$30,000 for money for the Library.

The President then mentioned that the women's room was not up to par. There was no toilet paper. The Director said that the problem with supplies was due to a new cleaning service that did not put in the toilet paper and paper towels.

The President and Director did mention some items that needed fixing. The Mayor said to give the Administrator a list of what needs attention.

New Business

The Director asked the Board asked about the closing dates for 2018. N. Moody made a motion to approve the closing dates as submitted by the Director. H. Donargo seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the closing dates as submitted.

Public Comments

No public comments.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Luis Rodriguez