

Ruth Hughes Memorial District Library
Regular Meeting of September 8, 2011 -
Imlay City, MI
(Proposed Board Minutes)

Attendance:

Donald Davenport (president/ presiding) **Present**
Laurie Dodge (vice-president) **Present**
Mary Lou Bissett (secretary) **Present**
Karen Hibbler (treasurer) **Present**
W. Todd Hancock (trustee) **Absent**
Michelle Dougherty (trustee) **Present**
Connie Brett (trustee) **Absent**

Staff: B. Kristen Valyi-Hax, Library Director **Present**

Guests:

- 9R01.01 Call to Order ***The meeting was called to order at 6:37 p.m.***
9R01.02 Additions/Deletions/Approval of Agenda ***Ms. Bissett made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Ms. Hibbler. Motion carried.***
9R01.03 Additions/Deletions/Approval of minutes of August 2011 meeting ***Ms. Hibbler made a motion to approve the August 2011 minutes, seconded by Ms. Dodge. Motion carried.***
9R01.04 Approval of Bills/Financial Status ***Ms. Hibbler made a motion to approve the bills and financial status, seconded by Ms. Dougherty. Motion carried.***
9R01.05 Time for Public Comments ***There were no public comments.***

Unfinished Business: Overview/Updates:

- 9R01.06 Goodland Township ***At the previous meeting, Ms. Valyi-Hax distributed a document from Anne Seuryneck, the library's attorney, which listed the steps the library board and administration could take in the process of adding Goodland Township to RHMDL's district library agreement. The Board discussed some of these steps. Some can be taken soon, such as notifying the current participating municipalities, but several of the steps should be done as the library works on the process of renewing its library millage.***
9R01.07 New Board Representative from Imlay Township ***The Imlay Township Board approved Conni Brett as its new representative from on the RHMDL board.***

Staff Reports: Director's Report ***For the 2011 Summer Reading Program, the library had 232 participants with over 3000 books read. Also, the library hosted 22 programs with 317 participants. The recent passage of the health insurance bill by the Michigan legislature will likely affect the Ruth Hughes Memorial District Library. To the best of the director's knowledge, these are the significant facts: Public employees will fall under a hard cap but can opt for an 80/20 plan. The hard cap is \$5500***

for a single employee (the only number that affects RHMDL since we do not pay for insurance for spouses or families), and the 80/20 means the library would pay 80% of the health insurance costs and the employee would pay 20% of the costs. This is supposed to take effect January 1, 2012. Local entities can opt out of the legislation with 2/3 vote for each medical plan year. Public employers that don't comply will lose 10% of their school aid or economic vitality payments. That penalty only takes effect if the entity doesn't comply, not if they opt out.

From the MLA web site: On August 16, 2011 the Michigan Court of Appeals ruled in favor of Herrick District Library vs the Library of Michigan and Department of Education. The Court concluded that the Department of Education does not have an implied power to independently adopt rules to govern its distribution of state aid to public libraries and therefore lacks the authority to promulgate the challenged rules. This came about because the Library of Michigan set a rule in its state aid guidelines that libraries that contracted with local municipalities outside its service area must offer full services. Herrick District Library challenged that in court, arguing that nothing in the law required it and that the Library of Michigan was setting an arbitrary rule.

HB 4890 was introduced August 24, 2011 to amend the Library Privacy Act (PA 455). It would strike current language that calls for restricting access to minors of certain information and replace it with language imposing filtering on all computers thereby infringing on constitutionally protected adult access to information. The only exception is to allow libraries to disable the blocking or filtering for 'bona fide medical research by medical personnel.' MLA described this as "legislation in search of a problem." PA455 and PA212 already call for adoption and enforcement of policies and procedures to restrict access to minors and prevent them from viewing sexually explicit material

The potential repeal of the Personal Property Tax has the potential to affect libraries and all municipalities. This issue will be MLA's priority for the fall. The Michigan Municipal League is also focusing on it. If this tax is eliminated, RHMDL will be affected by seeing a reduction in funding of \$36,897, nearly 10% of its taxable revenue. As I have more information about this campaign, I will share it with the board.

Ms. Valyi-Hax talked about the new outdoor sign with Ms. Marrone of the Imlay City DDA. Ms. Marrone wanted to know if the library wanted to participate in an RFP for all the signs for the downtown, in the hopes of having a less expensive price. The Board agreed that as long as the Imlay City branch's sign does not say anything "City of Imlay City" on it (since the library is an independent entity), that would be fine.

Ms. Valyi-Hax reported a problem with an employee's health insurance deduction. For one year, Yeo & Yeo's computer program has not been deducting enough money from her paycheck, meaning this employee owes \$1105.91. One Board member asked if it would be possible to write this amount off, since it was due to error, but Ms. Valyi-Hax pointed out that this essentially gives additional funds to this staff member, which is unfair to the other full-time employees. The board recommended that the amount this employee re-pays be cut in half, so the employee would only have to pay back \$552.96. The three other full-time employees will be issued a bonus amount of \$552.96.

Committee Reports:

- 9R01.08 Personnel Committee *There was no report from this committee.*
9R01.09 Policy Committee *There was no report from this committee.*
9R01.10 Budget Committee *There was no report from this committee, although the committee did meet on August 8 to prepare the 2012 budget.*

New Business:

- 9R01.11 New Filing Cabinet *The filing cabinet that is currently in the staff area is very old (likely came from the old library) and is starting to fall apart. Also, staff are not able to open drawers all the way. The director would like to purchase a new filing cabinet from Demco. The regular price is \$729.99, but with the statewide discount the library has, the price would be \$657 (no shipping). Ms. Dodge made a motion to approve the purchase of a new filing cabinet, seconded by Ms. Bissett. Motion carried.*
- 9R01.12 Library Millage Renewal *The library board needs to choose a date to renew the library's millage. Ms. Valyi-Hax recommends that the board choose August 7, 2012, for a few reasons: 1) The state primaries will likely be held on that date, so the library will not have to pay for the election; 2) It gives the library almost a year to plan and prepare; 3) If the millage should not be passed in August, the library can try again in November (district libraries may have only two millage elections per year). Ms. Dodge made a motion that the Ruth Hughes Memorial District Library should have its library millage renewal election on August 2012, seconded by Ms. Dougherty. Motion carried.*
- 9R01.13 Health Insurance *At the Budget Committee meeting, Ms. Dodge and Mr. Davenport asked Ms. Valyi-Hax to prepare numbers on what the library currently pays for health insurance and how the numbers might change if the library paid 70-80% of the full-time, non-administrative employees instead of the current rate of 50%. Ms. Valyi-Hax recommends that the library pay for a higher percentage of the health insurance costs for the staff that are eligible for it. The current costs are \$13,182.12 and increasing it to 80% would raise it to \$15,818.52. Starting in January, the cost will likely go down if the library follows the current legislation with all employees paying 20% of their health insurance benefits.*

Insurance increases have taken a larger chunk out of employees' take-home pay. Also, for the past several years, the library has added thousands of dollars to its fund balance. With careful budgeting, and even further review of the coverage offered, the library could continue to be fiscally responsible, while not asking our employees to suffer so much of their insurance burden. Ms. Dodge made a motion to amend the library's Health Benefit Policy to pay up to 80% of employee premiums, effective no later than November 1, 2011, seconded by Ms. Bissett. Motion carried.

9R01.14 Reference Area Re-Design *Ms. Valyi-Hax attached a draft RFP (Request for Proposals) for a re-design of the adult reference area. The board and director discussed a proposed budget and agreed to \$15,000 since there are no planned physical changes to the structure. Ms. Valyi-Hax will begin the process of finding a designer to work with on this project. The board reaffirmed its goal to have purchase all products from Michigan-based companies, wherever possible.*

Communications: *Ms. Valyi-Hax included an article from The County Press which mentioned the library and electronic media.*

Adjournment:

9R01.15 Adjournment *Ms. Bissett made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Hibbler. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.*