

ONEIDA COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD

Unapproved minutes of meeting of January 8, 2009

CALL TO ORDER: A regular meeting of the Oneida County Library Board was called to order by president Elmer Goetsch at 1:35 pm in Committee Room 1 of the Oneida County courthouse. The meeting was properly noticed and located according to law.

Present were OCLB members Elmer Goetsch, Janet Baer, Diana Blicharz, Larry Greschner, Mary Schoeneck, and Romelle Vandervest. Member Marlene Kerkes was excused. Also present were Rhinelander District Library director Ed Hughes, E. U. Demmer Memorial Library interim director Nancy Brewster, Oneida County Coordinator John Potters, and EUDML/WVLS board member Vicki Roehling. Minocqua Public Library director Mary Taylor was excused.

APPROVE AGENDA: Motion by Vandervest, second by Schoeneck, to approve the agenda as presented. All aye, motion carried.

APPROVE MINUTES: Motion by Vandervest, second by Greschner, to approve the minutes of the meeting of December 11, 2008. All aye, motion carried.

REPORTS: MPL director Mary Taylor was unable to be present, but had emailed a report that their circulation was much higher in the last two months compared to the previous year, they have been very busy, and they are starting a new book club.

Director Ed Hughes presented a written report detailing activities at RDL. He reported recent circulation increases as well, as did Three Lakes acting director Nancy Brewster. Ms. Brewster said several applications for the directorship have been received and a decision is expected soon.

All present agreed that current economic conditions were the reason for increased library usage, as has been true historically. It was noted that several news articles on the subject have been published recently.

Retired RDL director Kris Adams Wendt prepared a legislative report which was shared by email. She plans to do a report on a fairly regular basis. It is expected that the state budget crisis will have an effect on libraries along with other services.

Janet Baer reported that she has retired from the Wisconsin Valley Library Service board of trustees after more than twenty years. Mary Schoeneck has been appointed to replace her and will attend her first meeting on January 17. Vicki Roehling is the other Oneida County representative to WVLS.

FINANCE AND BUDGET: There were no line item transfers. A travel voucher for Nancy Brewster was approved on a motion by Schoeneck, second by Greschner, all aye, motion carried. The first 2008 closing statement has been received.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Wideband problems are being addressed at WVLS. Their new technology consultant, Patty Curthoys, has been well received. Rhinelander experienced a slowdown recently, but this has not been a frequent problem. Three Lakes has had problems quite often and are tracking them in hopes of a solution soon.

John Potters commented that one of newly elected State Senator Jim Holperin's goals is to improve broadband service for the northern part of the state. Potters also commented that he is not being strongly pressured by the Board of Supervisors to complete his study of a possible county-wide library system, is still gathering information, and thinks he is about 10% of the way through a lengthy project. Hughes distributed a revision of his 2008 summary of perceived benefits/disadvantages of a county system.

NEW BUSINESS: Greschner reported that all appointments have been updated.

Motion by Greschner that all current officers be reelected to serve until January 2010. Second by Vandervest, all aye, motion carried. Officers are Elmer Goetsch, president; Marlene Kerkes, vice-president and recording secretary; Janet Baer, financial secretary.

It was noted that more meetings may be required until the ongoing county-wide system study is complete.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were none. Goetsch distributed copies of a revised set of bylaws, to be considered at the next meeting.

NEXT MEETING: Tentatively set for February 12, 2009. Schoeneck and Vandervest indicated they would not be able to attend on that day.

ADJOURNMENT: Declared with no objection by the president at 2:15 pm.

Janet Baer, recorder pro tem

January 13, 2009