

Augusta Memorial Public Library Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, Oct. 16, 2023, 5:30 pm

Meeting called to order at 5:43 pm by Bunny Turner

Present: Rebecca White Body, Polina Kudelina, Bruce Stabenow, Bunny Turner

Also present: Leslie LaRose

Absent: Carrie Amo, Brenda Pettis, Barb Johnson

Quorum Present

Open Meeting Law Compliant

Agenda Approved : Motion made by Rebecca, seconded by Polina

Minutes from Sep. 19, 2023 Approved: Motion made by Bunny, seconded by Bruce

Financial Report:

1. Electricity costs are a bit higher than anticipated, but money from other budget areas can cover them.
2. The financials are on track for this time of year.
3. Polina motioned to approve the report, Bunny seconded, all approved.

Director's Report:

1. Leslie attended a Directors' Retreat in Wausau and got great benefit from connecting and sharing ideas with other library directors.
2. The 2024 budget needs to be approved by the Board so it can be presented to the City.
3. The Friends of the Library are doing a letter campaign this fall, with all donations to benefit the Library.
4. The Friends donated \$500 to augment the large print collection so it better meets current demand.
5. Author Angeline Boulley will be giving a lecture on Oct. 19 in Madison, but it will be accessible to all via livestream on the PBS website.
6. The Board acknowledged this report.

Friends of the Library report

1. No Friends report this month.

New business

1. Wage survey
 - a. Leslie shared the results of a library staff wage survey conducted by the state. Augusta's staff wages are significantly below regional wages for equivalent positions.
 - b. Based on the survey, Leslie proposes a wage increase for the Director and Associate Librarians, with a slightly higher increase for the Director wages. Director wages would also be calculated at 40 hours/week rather than the current 38 because of all the additional night and weekend hours Leslie frequently works. Increasing these wages would make it easier for the Library to attract a new Library Director should Leslie leave.

- c. The Board requests that the City give library staff wage increases that are in line with increases for the rest of the City's employees.

Budget

1. The Board reviewed the projected 2024 budget. Most costs are similar to the previous budget, but the equipment replacement request is higher due to the need to replace the Library's antiquated copier. The program budget is also higher due to increased public interest and the cost of supplies.
2. The building maintenance request was increased to \$9700 to allow the Library to replace its lighting with more efficient flat panel lighting, which would reduce energy costs.
3. Bunny motioned to approve the budget, Bruce seconded, all approved.

Meeting adjourned at 6:31pm.

Minutes taken and typed by Rebecca White Body