

MINUTES

MINERAL COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Date/Time of public meeting: July 14, 2022 2:00 p.m.

Board members present: Kay Benscoter, Elizabeth Doyle, Kellie Zuniga, Paul Eddy, Linda Dow

Director: Courtney Oberhansli

The chairman recognized correct placement of the American flag and directed a moment of silence for the men and women in uniform.

2:00 P.M. CALL TO ORDER

Establishment of a quorum

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND DISCUSSION

POSSIBLE ACTION ITEM: Approval of minutes from the May 11, 2022 meeting

Elizabeth moved, Kellie seconded and the minutes were approved as written.

POSSIBLE ACTION ITEM: Discussion and possible action on foundation renovation plans going forward. Director stated that Eric (Public Works director) brought a proposal for additional construction to solve a safety issue involving the wall. For safety, between the library and the retaining wall, a closed in structure will be built to act as secondary water control and as a fall protection. On the other side of the retaining wall there will be grass six inches below and any part of wall seen will be stained a color to match with the library. Other issues and a new cost proposal include: a small stem wall going out to the sidewalk due to the slope, a concrete patio and sidewalk from backdoor out to the sidewalk and street. Eric says that this is not in his budget and he would have to go to the commissioners. Director got Eric to sign stating that Public Works will take care of sod, fill dirt, plumbing, and any other landscaping as well as the work along the western wall from previous drain problems. Eric felt that landscaping costs might be estimated at around \$10,000. Director presented the new cost proposal of \$19,675 from G-Dubs' Construction for the additional construction. Director stated that she told Eric that the only way the board would even consider the new cost proposal was if he agreed that he would then pay all landscaping costs.

Elizabeth made a motion to pay 19,675.00 out of the Loftin account on the condition that Eric will fully cover the landscaping costs. Seconded by Kellie, motion carried.

POSSIBLE ACTION ITEM: Discussion and possible action on Board of Trustees annual evaluation of performance of the Library Director. The evaluations were received and compiled by Kay. A copy will be given to HR for the permanent personnel files at the court house. The Director thanked members for their support.

Elizabeth made a motion to approve the director's evaluation. Seconded by Linda; motion carried.

POSSIBLE ACTION ITEM: Discussion and possible action regarding the excavation process for fiber build out to the Mina library.

Director will be going to the commissioners' meeting to discuss a fiber build out to the Mina library. The Governor's office and the Office of Science Innovation and Technology are working together to walk the libraries through every step of the necessary bid process. The library is included as a county building for a pot of federal money to receive fiber, but a library can apply for E-rate monies that include not just the fiber construction build out but also rate reductions going forward and money for materials and construction costs to support the setup at the library. The preference is to use this pot of money if possible. The libraries must be CIPA (Child Internet Protection Act) compliant, which includes filtering. This is required for application for E-rate, which allows for a 90% discount (specifically for our community) from the federal government on Internet rates at both libraries. A potential roadblock may be that the future Mina rate is much higher than the current \$20/month charge. This involves a bid process which may be declined, then potentially repeated. County Commissioners would pick the bid which would not be in effect until the next fiscal year. Benefits include the possibility of fiber connectivity to citizens in Mina. The library would be an anchor institution, helping the community, and would be situated for any future connectivity expansions.

Elizabeth made a motion to start the exploration process into the fiber expansion and the e-rate funding for the Mina library. Seconded by Paul, motion carried.

DISCUSSION ITEM: DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Loftin funds: \$ 20,000.00 was transferred into checking account to cover additional costs on foundation renovation project
- Director clarified that May was a 3-payroll month. This happens 2 times a year.
- Summer Reading Program is going really well. Compared to last 2 years, numbers are way up. Last year we offered only take-home kits with fair numbers in the 20s. This year the in-person story time / craft sessions have attendance in high 30s. Received federal grant for craft kits which helped a great deal when not knowing how many people will show up because the kits are very easy to have ready.
- Many new patrons - 35 new library cards in June alone.
- Library returned to pre-COVID 6:00 PM closing time.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comment

POSSIBLE ACTION ITEM: Adjournment

Elizabeth moved, Paul seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 2:50 pm.