

Tri-Township Public Library
Board of Trustees Meeting
Regular Meeting
January 4, 2022

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by President Ashcraft at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call:

Board - Present: Erschen, Juehne, Lindsay, Scheller and Ashcraft. Absent: Espindola and Lindsay
Public – Present: David Cassens, Director for the Tri-Township Public Library; Mary Ellen Akridge, patron and volunteer; Cindy Gorsage, patron and volunteer; Joyce Ackerman, patron and volunteer; Karen James, patron; William Curtis James, patron; Stacy Postman, community member; Mark Taake, community member; and Linda Schaffer, Realtor representing Terry and Carol Taake.

Input to the Agenda -

Board: None

Public: Under New Business, add Possible Property Acquisition per Cassens.

Espindola arrived at 7:08 p.m.

Communication:

1. Mask Mandate Policy and Procedure – After the last Board meeting in December, the library changed its signage to strongly recommend masks being worn in the library. Five patrons / volunteers in attendance expressed their concerns about the wording of the signs and the perceived “backing off” of the more strongly worded signs requiring masks being worn. These volunteers are part of the Friends of the Library group and are responsible for the monthly book sales among other things. At this time, the community is experiencing a high rate of infection from the latest virus variant, Omicron. Many members of this group are senior citizens and have health concerns directly affected by the Covid-19 virus and are at a higher risk of infection. The group expressed the need for the library to provide a safe place to come and requested a policy mandating masks or, at least, reverting back to previous signage. Discussion ensued. Juehne made a motion to write and enforce a policy that follows the state health mandates and Erschen seconded. Ayes: Erschen, Espindola, Juehne, and Scheller. Nays: Ashcraft. Absent: Lindsay.

New Business:

1. Possible Property Acquisition – Schaffer presented two properties for the board’s consideration, the duplex at 205 & 207 S. Main St. and 116 Center St. The duplex is 1,650 sq. ft. with a large lot behind it, zoned commercial and is being offered for \$170,000. The house is 900 sq. ft., zoned residential, and is being offered for \$70,000. The Board agreed to share the information with its lawyer and discuss possibilities. The Board also expressed interest in walking through each property before any decisions are made.

Approval of Minutes:

1. Regular Meeting November 2, 2021 – Motion made by Scheller and seconded by Juehne to accept the minutes as presented. Ayes: Erschen, Juehne, Scheller and Ashcraft. Nays: None. Abstain: Espindola. Absent: Lindsay.

2. Closed Meeting Minutes November 2, 2021 - Motion made by Scheller and seconded by Juehne to accept the minutes as presented. Ayes: Erschen, Juehne, Scheller and Ashcraft. Nays: None. Abstain: Espindola. Absent: Lindsay.
3. Regular Meeting Minutes December 7, 2021 - Motion made by Scheller and seconded by Espindola to accept the minutes as presented. Ayes: Espindola, Juehne, Scheller and Ashcraft. Nays: None. Abstain: Erschen. Absent: Lindsay.

Treasurer's Report: The library is doing well financially. There was a big deposit in December. Scheller pointed out to the Board that the audit reflected that tax rates went down between 2010 and 2020. But, because of the number of houses being built in our tax district during that time, each household paid less in taxes and the library received more funds.

Director's Report:

1. Our attorney Fred Keck mediated an appraisal dispute regarding a local hotel. The court made a ruling to our benefit and its assessment will not be lowered.
2. Joel Pikora is now the Director at the Mascoutah Public Library. Elizabeth Fischer has taken over his duties as the Interim Assistant Director.
3. Elizabeth Fischer has been accepted to SIUE and begun taking courses.
4. The audit is complete.
5. Hoopla has begun offering a magazine bundle so now patrons can check out magazines on their accounts.
6. Reviewed statistics.

Maintenance: None.

Old Business:

1. Greenspace – No update.

New Business:

Closed Meeting: Espindola made a motion to go into a closed meeting for reason number 1 of the Open Meetings Act Section 2(c) and was seconded by Scheller at 8:31 p.m. The regular meeting resumed at 8:45 p.m.

Juehne made a motion to increase our teenager workers hourly pay to \$9.25/hour effective 1/1/2022; Fischer to receive a \$1.25 increase in her hour wage effective 1/1/2022; and Ricchezza's hourly wage be raised to \$15 effective 1/1/2022. Erschen seconded the motion. Ayes: Erschen, Espindola, Juehne, Scheller and Ashcraft. Nays: None. Absent: Lindsay.

Announcements and Adjournment: Motion to end the meeting made by Scheller and seconded by Espindola Ayes: Erschen, Espindola, Juehne, Scheller and Ashcraft. Nays: None. Absent: Lindsay.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.