

## **Allegany County Library Board of Trustees**

Regular Meeting

June 11, 2024

4:00 p.m.

LaVale Library

### **PRESENT:**

Deb Hendrickson, Juli McCoy, Bill Bingman, Sue Rudd, Gary Leasure, Artie Lee Travis and John Taube.

**Library Leadership Team:** Lisa McKenney, Andrea Everett, Ashley Swinford, Ali Cline, Shea Morse

The meeting was called to order by Deb Hendrickson.

A motion to accept the minutes of the regular meeting on June 4, 2024 was made by Bill Bingman, seconded by Gary Leasure and was approved.

A motion to accept both the statistical report and the financial reports of May 2024 was made by Bill Bingman, seconded by Juli McCoy and was accepted.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Fourteen community members signed up and spoke in favor of maintaining the hours of operation at the George's Creek and Westernport Libraries. The meeting was attended by 40 community members.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### **Review the June 11, 2024 version of the Proposed FY2025 Operating Budget**

John presented the updated version of the operating budget. He stated "in seeking to continue to provide library services in the county while providing sufficient time to consider any necessary changes to staffing or hours, we have drafted this budget for your approval and consideration. This budget maintains staffing and hours of operation at all 6 libraries for a period of 1 year using a one-time fund transfer from a Board restricted account."

John then went on to review the budget line by line and show the changes from the previous week. He highlighted the one-time fund transfer of \$54,850 from the Knipple Account to provide funds to maintain hours and staffing at George's Creek and Westernport Libraries in line 46505. Also noted were these changes:

- No changes to staffing or hours of operation.
- 2.25% wage increases
- No change in wage scale
- Use FY23 carry over \$35,000
- Employee contribution to health insurance increases from 4 to 5%
- 16% reduction in collections
- Cataloger positions unified into Grade 7
- Postpone strategic plan until FY2026
- Use WMRL Unrestricted Surplus Grant funds for IT Hardware (\$100,000)
- Liquidate the Board restricted Knipple Account to fund maintaining staffing and hours.

After a period for questions and clarifications, Sue Rudd moved that since the county notified the library system of the cuts to their budget so late that we have been unable to complete the appropriate amount of research that is necessary to make a decision about reducing hours or closing a library. Therefore, I move that we liquidate the Board restricted Knipple Account to maintain staffing and hours for the FY2025 year. And that the Board make a decision by January 15, 2025 on the necessary measures to address future potential funding gaps. Sue's motion was seconded by Bill Bingman and was approved by the Board.

Sue Rudd then moved to approve the FY2025 operating budget as presented today using the transfer of Knipple account funds to maintain staffing and hours. Sue's motion was seconded by Bill Bingman and was approved by the Board.

Sue Rudd followed up with another motion. "In light that the budget we have just passed is a 1 year patch on our fiscal situation, I move that a committee be created and begin work by mid-August 2024 to study the issue of maintaining 6 libraries within the funds appropriated to ACLS." Juli McCoy seconded the motion.

There was discussion that the committee should be made up of Board members, Leadership Team members, library staff, members of the branch Friends groups, and other members of the communities the libraries serve.

Deb called for a vote on the motion to create the suggested committee and the motion was approved.

After approving the motions, several Board members thanked the public in attendance for their commitment to libraries in Allegany County.

A motion to adjourn was made by Gary Leasure, seconded by Bill Bingman and was approved.

**Next Board Meeting** is scheduled for Tuesday, August 13, 2024 at 4PM.