**SMYTH COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY**

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**

**Thursday, June 18, 2020**

**5:30 p.m., Marion Public Library**

**Marion, VA 24354**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The regular meeting of the Smyth County Library Board of Trustees was held on Thursday, June 18, 2020, in the downstairs area of the Marion Public Library. It was also broadcast on Facebook Live. Trustees present were Deanie Dimick, Tom Copenhaver, Iris Worley, Donna Rupard Greer, and Patton Graham. Robb Farmer, Library Director, and Helen Conley, Secretary, were also in attendance. The meeting was called to order by Deanie Dimick at 5:37 pm

**WELCOME/INTRODUCTION:**

Deanie welcomed everyone to the meeting. She also introduced Donna Rupard Greer and Tom Copenhaver as the new board members.

**AGENDA ADDITIONS:**

A motion was made to accept the agenda as listed by Iris Worley with a second by Tom Copenhaver.

The motion PASSED by the following vote:

AYES: Deanie Dimick, Iris Worley, Patton Graham, Donna Rupard Greer, and Tom Copenhaver

NAYS: None

ABSTAINERS: None

ABSENT: None

**PUBLIC/GUEST REMARKS:**

Deanie opened the floor to public comment. Sharon Dishner, Diane Hayes, Gary Frazier, and Susan Rutherford all spoke. Comments ranged from support for the Library Director and staff to concern over the library having enough funds to cover staff payroll.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Iris Worley moved to adopt the May minutes with a second by Patton Graham.

The motion PASSED by the following vote:

AYES: Deanie Dimick, Iris Worley, and Patton Graham

NAYS: None

ABSTAINERS: Donna Rupard Greer and Tom Copenhaver

ABSENT: None

**APPROVAL OF DISBURSEMENTS:**

A discussion was had about the finances. Teresa Tuggle from the Longhorn CPA Group came forward and answered questions from the board. Robb also answered some questions about branch budgets and preprocessing. He also noted that the CPA firm offered to have a meeting with the board to discuss the statement makeup and possibly changing them to be more effective. The Longhorn Group has its own software that will be implemented soon.

A motion was made by Tom Copenhaver to adopt the May Disbursements in the amount of $60,589.90. Iris Worley seconded the motion.

The motion PASSED by the following vote:

AYES: Deanie Dimick, Iris Worley, Tom Copenhaver, Patton Graham, and Donna Rupard Greer

NAYS: None

ABSTAINERS: None

ABSENT: None

**DIRECTOR’S REPORT:**

Robb started by stating that the patrons like the curbside and that the staff is also doing online programs and videos. Robb continued with discussing his outlook on librarianship, some of the changes that have been made in the system, and funding issues in order to help introduce himself to the new board members. Robb also recognized Byron Johnson and acknowledged his mistaken behavior in a situation that occurred between the two of them.

Donna Rupard Greer asked about grant writing and what the board could do to help the library secure grant money. Robb explained that if the library is struggling financially, it doesn’t look good to the groups that offer grants. He stated that the board could help by advocating for the library with funding groups. She also asked for a list of grants and Robb said that he could get her one.

Tom Copenhaver asked, “If everyone likes the library, why is it getting cut?” Robb stated that the County and Town of Marion had cut funding. He stated that the Town of Marion wasn’t going to pay for the last quarter of the year due to the library being closed for the pandemic; however, curbside had started in May. He didn’t have any other answer as to why the cuts happened.

**OPEN ISSUES:**

**Covid-19- Reopening schedule; plan; personnel**

Robb explained that the plan to reopen was to continue doing curbside and slowly reopen by appointment. He went on to explain the other steps that would be taken to try and keep staff and patrons as safe as possible. Robb was asked what was needed to get ready to reopen. He said that he would like to open July 6th to have time to advertise and get everything ready. He also requested the other part-time staff to be allowed to return.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **New Trustees**

Two new trustees started this night and, starting July 1st, another new member will come on the board. The seventh member has yet to be appointed. Tom Copenhaver brought back up the concern from earlier in the evening about new leadership. Sharon Dishner clarified that she was concerned that Mr. Farmer’s job was in trouble.

1. **2020 Financials & Closeout**

Robb said that the closeout should go much easier this year. There will be an audit by the same firm as last year.

1. **2021 Tentative Budget**

Robb presented his mock-up budget to the board. He cut the director’s salary by $10,000.00 with no additional cuts to any other salaries. Marion tentatively has stated that they will give $25,000 but still have no knowledge of what Smyth County plans to give. Iris mentioned that it would be good to have a representative to go to the county and town meetings to make sure that those agencies know what we are doing.

**CLOSED SESSION**

A motion was made by Tom Copenhaver to go into closed session: Code of Virginia, Section 2.2-3711: to discuss **A.1: Personnel Matters:** discussions, considerations, or interviews of prospective candidates for employment and contracts; and **A.7: Legal:** discussion with legal counsel and staff pertaining to actual or probable litigation. Donna Rupard Greer seconded the motion.

The motion PASSED by the following vote:

AYES: Tom Copenhaver, Donna Rupard Greer, Iris Worley, Patton Graham, and Deanie Dimick

NAYS: None

ABSTAINERS: None

ABSENT: None

A motion was made by Tom Copenhaver to allow Byron Johnson into the closed session to speak with the board. It was seconded by Patton Graham.

The motion PASSED by the following vote:

AYES: Tom Copenhaver, Donna Rupard Greer, Iris Worley, Patton Graham, and Deanie Dimick

NAYS: None

ABSTAINERS: None

ABSENT: None

Tom Copenhaver made a motion, seconded by Patton Graham, to allow Margaret Linford to go into closed session to speak with the board.

The motion PASSED by the following vote:

AYES: Tom Copenhaver, Donna Rupard Greer, Iris Worley, Patton Graham, and Deanie Dimick

NAYS: None

ABSTAINERS: None

ABSENT: None

A motion was made by Tom Copenhaver, with a second by Iris Worley, to adopt the following resolution certifying the business conducted in closed session as follows:

**RESOLUTION**

**CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED SESSION**

**WHEREAS**, the Smyth County Public Library Board of Trustees had convened in a closed session on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 2.2-312 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by the Smyth County Public Library Board of Trustees that such a meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Smyth County Public Library Board of Trustees hereby certifies that, to the best of each member’s knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certification resolution applies, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed session were heard, discussed and considered by the Smyth County Public Library Board of Trustees.

The motion PASSED by the following vote:

AYES: Tom Copenhaver, Donna Rupard Greer, Iris Worley, Patton Graham, and Deanie Dimick

NAYS: None

ABSTAINERS: None

ABSENT: None

A motion was made by Tom Copenhaver, with a second by Patton Graham, that the decision made in closed session was for a written reprimand of discussed employee, a probationary period of 30 days without pay, to complete within a week a list of activities given to employee by the board, and that the situation would be re-addressed at the next board meeting.

The motion PASSED by the following vote:

AYES: Tom Copenhaver, Donna Rupard Greer, Iris Worley, Patton Graham, and Deanie Dimick

NAYS: None

ABSTAINERS: None

ABSENT: None

**LOCATION/TIME OF NEXT MEETING:**

The next regular meeting will be held on July 16th at 5:30PM at the Marion Public Library. Facebook Live will be used if necessary.

A short discussion was had about appointing a Vice Chair. Tom Copenhaver moved that Patton Graham be appointed to Vice Chair for one meeting. Donna Rupard Greer seconded the motion.

The motion PASSED by the following vote:

AYES: Tom Copenhaver, Donna Rupard Greer, Iris Worley, Patton Graham, and Deanie Dimick

NAYS: None

ABSTAINERS: None

ABSENT: None

A question was presented about the newly made state holiday – Juneteenth. Patton Graham moved that since the Governor made the holiday that it would be observed. Donna Rupard Greer seconded the motion.

The motion PASSED by the following vote:

AYES: Tom Copenhaver, Donna Rupard Greer, Iris Worley, Patton Graham, and Deanie Dimick

NAYS: None

ABSTAINERS: None

ABSENT: None

**ADJOURNMENT:**

A motion was made by Iris Worley, with a second by Donna Rupard Greer, to adjourn the meeting.

The motion PASSED by the following vote:

AYES: Donna Rupard Greer, Tom Copenhaver, Iris Worley, Patton Graham, and Deanie Dimick

NAYS: None

ABSTAINERS: None

ABSENT: None