

HOWELL CARNEGIE DISTRICT LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
December 12, 2023

President Kathryn Tuck called the regular meeting of the Howell Carnegie District Library Board of Trustees to order at 6:00 pm.

Jennifer Earl moved to approve the agenda as presented. Bob Ellis supported, and a quorum of the board unanimously approved.

Members present: Jennifer Earl, Bob Ellis, Lyn Hewitt, Tony Kandt, Susan Pominville, Maria Stuart, and Kathryn Tuck. Library Director Holly Ward Lamb was also present. Six members of the public were in attendance.

Members absent: None

Lyn Hewitt moved to approve the consent agenda as presented, including Item A, Minutes of November 14, 2023, and Item B, Bills and Payrolls. Bob Ellis supported, and a quorum of the board unanimously approved.

There were no announcements or comments from the public.

President Kathryn Tuck thanked the board for carrying on last month without her and for volunteering to be part of this board. She touted a library program (It's a Wrap: a holiday gift wrapping extravaganza) on Friday, December 15, and Saturday, December 16, for patrons to bring their gifts to wrap using the library's dedicated space and supplies. She wished everyone a wonderful holiday season.

Each board member received the Treasurer's Report for November 2023 electronically. Treasurer Bob Ellis briefly reviewed the report with the board. Bob Ellis moved to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Susan Pominville supported, and a quorum of the board unanimously approved.

There were no committee meetings in November.

Director Holly Ward Lamb stated that the annual disclosure related to the bond was filed today. Board members should have received an email from her

concerning the pension filing due every year to the treasury. The law requires the library to file it, put it on the website, and send board members a copy.

ACTION ITEMS

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Bob Ellis moved to adopt Resolution 23-16 to Approve Pay Rate Structure Change. Maria Stuart supported, and a quorum of the board unanimously approved.
2. Kathryn Tuck shared communication from Erin Britten, a member of the Howell City Council, concerning working together on the sale of the library's property. Kathryn Tuck also disclosed she met with City Manager Erv Suida concerning the possibility of third-party mediation of the current situation between the city and the library board. President Tuck stated that having time to process recent events is important. Bob Ellis noted that the city is anxious to move forward because the city manager made it clear that "one of the deadlines for the project is coming up in 2024, sooner than we thought."

Holly Ward Lamb stated that she had been working with the library's attorney throughout the day, and they had drafted a statement to respond to press inquiries. She read the statement to the board:

"We understand that the City Council approved in a vote of 4-2 to send Governor Whitmer a letter asking that she remove Trustee Kandt from the Library Board. Currently, we do not have a copy of the motion or the letter they propose to send to the Governor.

With that said, based on the allegations the City has previously made, the Library maintains that there is no basis in law or fact to remove Mr. Kandt from office. The allegations against Mr. Kandt do not even come close to misfeasance, malfeasance, or other standard which might support a request for removal from office by the Governor.

Aside from the Mayor (who voted against the motion), no library board members or staff members were contacted during the investigation, and there are conflicting opinions about what happened at that meeting.

Library board members have reached out to the City Council and Manager to express their disagreement. Despite this, the City has decided to move forward with its baseless request.

As a result, this has the appearance of being a purely politically motivated and personal attack on Mr. Kandt. The Library is very disappointed with the City's actions and does not think this is the appropriate way to maintain good intergovernmental relationships.”

Bob Ellis said he believed such a statement would escalate the current situation. Holly Ward Lamb assured him the statement was not a press release but a response to press inquiries. Considering recent events, including the city council's resolution to petition the governor to remove a library trustee, Kathryn Tuck moved any further discussion concerning the sale or lease of the library's vacant lot be tabled until at least the next meeting. Maria Stuart supported, and a quorum of the board approved. Trustee Bob Ellis voted against the motion.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

None.

IN-SERVICE TRAINING TOPIC

Nothing scheduled.

COMMENTS & CONCERNS OF BOARD MEMBERS

Tony Kandt wondered if there was anything the board could do to honor the service of retiring long-time Head of Adult Services Jerilee Cook.

Susan Pominville moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:12 pm. Tony Kandt supported, and a quorum of the board unanimously approved.

Kathleen Murray, Recording Secretary