

Callaway County Library District Minutes, Meeting of July 11, 2019

Board members present were Tonya Hays-Martin, President; Taylor Cudd; Mary Fennel; Jean Howard; and Brian Warren.

Also present were Holts Summit resident Marty Wilson and DBRL staff members Amanda Burke, Margaret Conroy, Melanie Henry, Sara Henry, Jim Smith and Mitzi St. John.

Call to Order

Hays-Martin called the meeting to order at 6:59 p.m. A quorum of members was present.

Public Comment

Wilson noted that he continues to hold used book sales next door to the Holts Summit Public Library (HSPL). He observes that dozens of people walk in on Fridays hoping that the library is open. Wilson asked for a script to use when talking to members of the public about the anticipated levy increase in 2020. He reported voting levels from the April 2019 election. Wilson said that he believes older residents would like to use HSPL in the mornings. He also stated that he has observed that kids' programs at HSPL are packed, the branch staff is great, and the community is very happy. Hays-Martin thanked Wilson and asked if he would be willing to serve on a citizens' committee to campaign for the levy increase. Wilson said he would be happy to do so.

Approval of Minutes

Hearing no changes, additions or deletions, Hays-Martin declared the minutes of June 13, 2019 approved as written.

Tax Levy Discussion

Conroy distributed a current and proposed tax rate analysis, as well as a draft budget for increasing staff at the Callaway County Public Library (CCPL) and expanding hours at HSPL to match those of the Ashland branch. Conroy noted that, with a levy increase to 26 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation, the branches in Callaway County could afford to buy new equipment and an outreach vehicle to replace those items rotated to CCPL and HSPL from the Columbia branch.

Conroy stated that the CCLD board may need to meet monthly until the election. She noted that the 2020 DBRL Operating Budget will include funds for election-related costs.

In response to a question from Warren, Conroy said that the levy last increased from 14 to 20 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation, and St. John said that she believes that occurred in the 1990s.

ACTION: Warren moved, Cudd seconded the board's intention to put an item on the April 2020 ballot to raise the library's property tax levy in Callaway County to 26 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation. The vote was taken by roll call: Cudd – yes; Fennel – yes; Hays-Martin – yes; Howard – yes; Warren – yes. The motion passed.

Conroy stated that staff will continue to work on the draft budget that will demonstrate how a levy increase will impact Callaway County services. Staff will also work with the County Clerk and develop ballot language. The citizens' committee will be developed with the Trustees' assistance and start their activities in earnest after the holidays. Key staff members will visit civic clubs and other local organizations, as well. The DBRL PR department will have support materials and key messages by that time. Conroy asked the Trustees to send name suggestions to

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Sara Henry. Hays-Martin suggested that board members use personal letters and phone calls to request the assistance of the suggested individuals.

In response to a question from Howard, Conroy said that no new hours will be added at CCPL if the levee is passed, as it is believed that additional outreach services will be more effective in that part of the county.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Hays-Martin adjourned the meeting at 7:23 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Amanda Burke.

Board Secretary