

Franklin County Library Board Minutes
October 12, 2021
Charleston Library - 6:00 p.m.

Present: Board members: Milanie Matthews, J. J. Chronister, Casey White (by Zoom), Linda Halmes; County Librarians Hannah Hobbs and Deidre Fears; Regional Librarian Misty Hawkins; and County Judge Ricky Bowman.

Due to the resignation of Rick Bradford, President, the meeting was called to order by J. J. Chronister, Vice President, at 5:57 p.m.

Minutes of previous meeting were made available in advance of this meeting. Motion was made by Milanie, seconded by Casey to approve. Motion carried.

Financial reports showed a balance of ~~\$407,765.48~~ ^{\$212,256.33} (ending Sept. 30, 2021) Ozark petty cash fund has balance of 4170.82; Charleston petty cash balance is \$6123.28. Remaining due on Ozark Library renovation loan is \$89,083.68. Motion was made by Linda, seconded by Milanie to approve. Motion carried.

REPORTS FROM LIBRARIANS

Hannah reported that the Charleston Library had been preparing to get back in the swing of back to school programs. Planning is being made to offer more senior programs. The staff is working with the River Valley Art Alliance in offering art lessons. ARCAN training will be offered on October 26 with kits being provided to participants and lunch will be served. The library will be partnering with non-profits to do red ribbon activities. A list of other activities is attached.

Deidre said that programming was down some because of a staff member who was absent. The library had a booth at Square Gathering with the aim of new library card signups. The booth also offered ring toss and free coloring book pages which brought alot of participation. The library will offer a free movie (Hocus Pocus) before Halloween and will be participating in the Haunted Hillbilly Highway on Saturday, eve of Halloween. Planning is being done for ribbon cutting for new flagpole, Christmas on the square, Library open house, pictures with Santa, and adding some new themes to the weekend fun bags that are available upon request. Other activities are listed on attached sheet.

Misty challenged the staff at each library in the region to work as a team to get new signups for library cards during National Library Card Signup month. The winning team

would get a free meal. Even though our county did not win, they got an 11% increase in card signup from August to September.

Misty reported that the region has received a wave of funding under the America Rescue Plan. Monies will be used on digitization projects and an outreach vehicle (van) to be used at activities to make the libraries more visible at events and activities in the region. Emergency connectivity funds will provide additional hot spot connections that are available at local libraries.

Misty said that she is working on necessary paperwork to update contracts that counties sign in agreement with the region. She is currently working on paperwork for a scholarship request for Hannah so that she can obtain her Master's degree in Library Science.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

A proposed budget was prepared in advance giving all employees a 3% salary increase with the exception of Hannah Hobbs who would get a 5% increase. When hired she was promised this increase after one year if work was satisfactory and it has been most satisfactory.

After careful review of the proposed budget, it was suggested that \$500.00 be added to Line Item 3096, county matching funds (for technology). In addition, the board would like to make an additional payment on the Ozark Library renovation loan if funds are available. A motion was made by Linda, seconded by Casey, to make these changes after checking on carryover amount. A final budget will be approved at December meeting. Motion carried.

Deidre gave a report on the flag pole project. Everything is ready except for the concrete pad. She presented an estimate of \$675.00 for a concrete sleeve and concrete pad to set and install flag pole. A motion was made by Casey, seconded by Linda, to proceed. Motion carried. The costs will be paid from line item 2020 (bldg. materials and supplies). Plans are for a flagpole ribbon cutting ceremony on November 10.

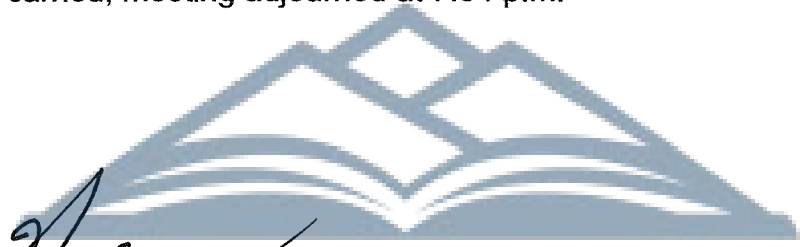
Deidre announced that Teresa Lasater would be retiring at end of year. A vacancy announcement will be made with salary of \$11.00 per hour.

Hannah reported that dead bedbugs have been found in returned books but no live ones have been found. The local pest control company was of big help in treatment inside library. In order to implement new bedbug protocol inside the library, Hannah suggested buying a dedicated indoor book return unit at a cost of 828.95. The funds would be taken out of line item 2020 (bldg. materials and supplies). A motion to do so was made by Milanie, seconded by Casey; motion carried.

The computers in Charleston Library are in need of replacement; they were purchased in 2013 making them eight years old, thus being very slow and outdated. The cost of two would be approximately \$1800.00. The funds would be taken from line item 2002 (small equipment). A motion was made by J. J., seconded by Linda, to make the purchase. Motion carried.

The December meeting was set for Tuesday, December 7, 6:00 p.m.at Ozark Library.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Linda, seconded by Milanie, to adjourn. Motion carried; meeting adjourned at 7:04 p.m.



Linda Halmes
Linda Halmes, Secretary
Franklin County Library Board

ARKANSAS RIVER VALLEY
REGIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEM