

Burke County Public Library
Departmental Trustees Meeting
March 24, 2009, 4:00 p.m.
Morganton Public Library

Trustees Present: Bakh Alam, Dottie Ervin, Gene Huffman, Susan Keller, Mark Rostan, Steve Settlemyer, Mary Ellen Wiese, Gail Williamson
Trustees Absent: Rose Ann Childres, Vickie Oxentine, Becky Stragand, Ken Whittington
Staff Present: Jim Wilson

Mary Ellen Wiese called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Introduction of New Trustee: Jim Wilson introduced the new trustee, Gail Williamson. She will represent Hildebran.

Approval of Minutes: A motion to approve the last minutes was made by Bakh Alam and seconded by Dottie Ervin. The minutes were approved.

Correspondence and Communications: Mary Ellen Wiese read Becky Stragand's letter of resignation. Becky has moved out of the county.

Financial Report: Director Jim Wilson reported that state aid has been cut by 7% and may be cut further. Overall, the revenue has continued to be stable. The previously unspent salary money has been put into the building repairs fund. Burke County will be taking \$26,000 out of the library's budget, which will come from office supplies, books, periodicals, audio-visual, electronic cataloging, travel, communication, printing, janitorial service in Morganton, training, and insurance.

Staffing Update: Kimberly Greene, Library Assistant in Morganton has returned from maternity leave. Page Anderson, Information Services Librarian in Morganton, will start full-time in June. She has already updated the website, worked in the North Carolina Room, and attended a workshop on job search training in Asheville. The staff is working diligently to offer more for less money. Mary Ellen Weise suggested using more volunteers. When the economy improves, Wilson would like to request more staff in order to keep Hildebran's hours in line with the others. Maintaining current staff is a major priority at this time

Building Repairs: Work still needs to be done in all three libraries. According to the space study, the system does not meet the minimum requirements. Requests for money should be put into the pipeline now, even though the economy will not allow these needs to be met at the present time. There should be good community response.

General Library There have been a number of excellent programs, including book

Update: discussion series, Easter egg hunts, a poetry writing group, and performances. The space study report is finished, and once the printed copies are available, a time will be scheduled for the consultant to present his findings to the board. The board has looked over the Materials Selection Policy, and will discuss this more at a later meeting.

Committee Reports: None

Unfinished Business: None

New Business: The budget request was turned in Friday, March 13. Wilson presented the board with some of the highlights. A funding arrangement with the county, the city of Morganton, and the City of Valdese has been included formally in the budget. A request that unspent funds be put back into the library budget and not that of the county has also been added. 60% of the funding comes from Burke County, 19% from the city of Morganton, 4% from the city of Valdese, and 14% from the state. The budget priorities include maintaining staff, services, hours, materials, and programs. An overall reduction of funds will impact book purchases and programming. What will happen remains to be seen. The annual visit to the commissioners will be made during National Library Week. A motion to approve the budget proposal was made by Steve Settlemyer and seconded by Bakh Alam. The motion passed.

There had been a proposal to make the board meetings quarterly, but the members present decided to keep the meeting schedule of 6 per year as it is. The next five meetings will be as follows: May 26, July 28, September 22, November 17, and January 26.

Adjournment: The motion to adjourn was made by Dottie Ervin, seconded by Bakh Alam, and unanimously approved.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, May 26, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. at the C.B. Hildebrand Public Library.

Respectfully submitted: Susan Keller