

Burke County Public Library
Departmental Trustees Meeting
January 26, 2010, 4:00 p.m.
Morganton Public Library

Trustees Present: Dottie Ervin, Gene Huffman, Vickie Oxentine, Mark Rostan, Mary Ellen Wiese, Reba Williams, Gail Williamson, Anna Wilson

Trustees Absent: Bakh Alam, Rose Ann Childres, Steve Settlemyer

Staff Present: Jim Wilson

Mary Ellen Wiese called the meeting to order at 4:06 p.m.

Nominating Committee: The Nominating Committee reported that the following have agreed to serve as officers: Bakh Alam, chair; Vickie Oxentine, vice-chair; Dottie Ervin, treasurer; and Anna Wilson, secretary. A motion to accept the slate of officers was made by Dottie Ervin, seconded by Reba Williams, and unanimously approved.

At this time the new officers assumed their duties. Vickie Oxentine, vice-chair, presided in absence of the chair.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes for September and November were unanimously approved.

Correspondence and Communications: Vice-chair Oxentine thanked Mary Ellen Wiese for holding the Christmas gathering in December.

Financial Report: Director Jim Wilson reported that Burke County has a new financial accounting system and there are still some issues to be worked out. So we still do not have printed financial reports available. Hopefully that will be resolved soon.

Fines and fees are down 14%. Wilson thinks we will still be ok to make our projected \$40,000 in revenues for the year. The library has fully allocated its \$60,000 of book money.

Staffing Update: Burke County has a new payroll system and employees will be getting paid bi-weekly instead of monthly.

Building Repairs: Heating is out in the front part of the Morganton building and Jim has put in a work order. The library has a \$15,000 balance for repairs.

General Library Update: Circulation is 8% above average for July through December for all sites. Morganton up 2.8%; Valdese up 10.7% and Hildebran is up 53.8%. The Christmas concert was well received with about 130 in attendance. The

library staff is already gearing up for the Summer Reading Program. Jim reported that computer usage at all library branches is down slightly and the reason could be because the library was closed more days and the snow prevented people from coming to the library. However, the library has registered 3,200 new patrons.

Cole House Project: Jim reported the grant application to the State Employees Credit Union Foundation is under consideration, but there's no word yet on approval.

Online Opportunity Hardware Grant: The grant is in its second year. The library has purchased the PCs and is expecting \$16,000 in the spring from Gates Foundation.

Committee Reports: None

Unfinished Business: None

New Business: The trustees heard presentations from James Maynard of Red Clay Development and Emily Williamson with the Town of Hildebran about possible new locations for the C.B. Hildebrand Public Library. Red Clay Development is trying to preserve the historic Cline Mill and is interested in having the library occupy part of the building. The Town of Hildebran would like to see the library go into part of the former Hildebran High School building, renovation of which the town has listed as one of its top three priorities. The town has already renovated part of the facility. Some trustees met with Hildebran Mayor Karen Robinson and took a tour of the structure and later met with Red Clay Development officials to tour the Cline Mill Building in December.

Williamson, who is Mayor Pro-tem of Hildebran, told the trustees that Hildebran was not as far along with plans as Red Clay, but the council would like the library to consider the old high school building. The town's architect had not finished drawing up plans for the building and there were no cost figures available. The town asked for more time in order to formalize a proposal. The library would be offered space rent-free. Dottie Ervin asked about utilities and Williamson said the goal was to keep the utilities as low as possible since the Hildebran museum would be in the space as well. Williamson told the board that the Town of Hildebran has a healthy fund balance and that a top priority for the council is the renovation.

Red Clay explained about tax credits available for renovating old textile mill buildings and emphasized its history. The \$5 million planned renovation of the entire building would depend partly on the library's ability to get \$660,000 in grants. Jim Wilson asked about upfront costs to the library and was assured that there was no money needed at the beginning. Mark Rostan asked for a more detailed explanation on the tax

credits. Mary Ellen Wiese asked how the developers made a profit and they pointed out the \$700,000 developers' fee.

No action was taken on this item as trustees felt further discussion was necessary. Vice-chair Oxentine called for a special meeting to be held to further discuss each proposal. Library Director, Jim Wilson was asked to coordinate a meeting time and date with the trustees with the goal of having the meeting as soon as possible.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 5:25pm

The next regular meeting will be on Tuesday, March 23, 2010 at 4:00 p.m. at the Valdese Public Library.

Respectfully submitted : Anna Wilson