

Burke County Public Library
Departmental Trustees Special Called Meeting
February 09, 2010, 4:00 p.m.
Morganton Public Library

Trustees Present: Bakh Alam, Rose Ann Childres, Dottie Ervin, Vickie Oxentine, Mark Rostan, Mary Ellen Wiese, Reba Williams, Gail Williamson, Anna Wilson

Trustees Absent: Gene Huffman, Steve Settlemyer

Staff Present: Jim Wilson

Bakh Alam called the meeting to order at 4:08 p.m.

Unfinished Business: Site Recommendation for the C.B. Hildebrand Public Library –

The meeting was called to discuss possible site options for the C.B. Hildebrand Public Library and to make a recommendation to the Burke County Commissioners.

Library Director Jim Wilson included handouts on site selection criteria for library sites – one from Virginia and one from South Carolina. He asked trustees to consider some of these criteria when making a decision.

Wilson reviewed the proposals from the Town of Hildebran and Red Clay Development. He asked trustees to decide more on location and not worry too much about the details of the financing since that will be reviewed very thoroughly at the county level.

Board chair, Bakh Alam suggested the trustees go point by point with pros and cons for each site.

Dottie Ervin said she feels very strongly about getting into any kind of contract with any municipal entity due to the uncertain nature of politics.

Wilson pointed out that the Morganton location is jointly owned by Burke County and the City of Morganton, and the Valdese site is jointly owned by the Burke County and the Town of Valdese. In Hildebran, the library is located in the basement of the community center which also houses the swimming pool. The library has a lease which expires in July 2012, but the current landlord has not given any indication that the library will have to move. The library has been located there for 12 years and pays no rent. Patrons are ready for a larger and better space.

Rose Ann Childres said location was most important to her and she can't

picture the library in the mill because of traffic on U.S. 70 and the train.

Wilson said he prefers the physical location of the school – parking is better, and it's not close to U.S. 70 or the train tracks. But the town, through no fault of their own, he said, is not ready to move on the project. Based on Red Clay's timeline the library could be in the mill location within a year, but at the school, it may be 3 or more years before the library is there. Hildebran is top priority in the library's facility plans. He asked the trustees to consider how much more that library is being used especially since the hours were increased. At top of county agenda is renovating the courthouse and jail. Of the three branches, Hildebran would be the least expensive to undertake and it's the branch that needs it right now. That said, he reminded the trustees that they were under no obligation to make a decision right now.

Trustees debated pros and cons of each location.

Gail Williamson made motion to pursue a new site at the old high school with the Town of Hildebran. The motion failed for lack of a second.

.
Dottie Ervin made a motion to recommend the proposal from Red Clay Development to the Burke County Commission. Mary Ellen Wiese seconded the motion. With no further discussion forthcoming, Chair Bakh Alam called for a vote and the motion passed 6-3. Those opposed were Rose Ann Childres, Reba Williams and Gail Williamson. Those for were Dottie Ervin, Mary Ellen, Wiese Mark Rostan, Vickie Oxentine, Anna Wilson and Bakh Alam.

Dottie Ervin made a motion to adjourn and Mary Ellen Wiese seconded. Meeting adjourned.

Adjournment: Dottie Ervin made a motion to adjourn and Mary Ellen Wiese seconded. The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted : Anna Wilson