

Burke County Public Library
Departmental Trustees Meeting
May 25, 2010, 4:00 p.m.
Hildebran Town Hall

Trustees Present: Bakh Alam, Dottie Ervin, Gene Huffman, Vickie Oxentine, Mark Rostan,
Mary Ellen Wiese, Reba Williams
Trustees Absent: Rose Ann Childres, Steve Settlemyer, Gail Williamson, Anna Wilson
Staff Present: Jim Wilson

Chair Bakh Alam called the meeting to order at 4:07 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: No changes to the minutes from the March 23 meeting. A motion to approve the minutes by Dottie Ervin, seconded by Vickie Oxentine, and unanimously approved.

Correspondence and Communications: It was noted that trustee, Mary Ellen Wiese, was reappointed to the board through December 2011 by the Burke County Commission.

Financial Report: Director Wilson presented a financial report for April and indicated that the library is collecting revenues as needed. The towns of Drexel and Hildebran have both made their contributions. Fines and fees are still down (7%) but not as much as the last meeting. We may still meet our \$40,000 goal. Additional revenue from state aid will allow the library to meet its overall revenue projection.

Staffing Update: Wilson reported the library has completed hiring temporary staff for the Summer Reading Program. These staff are paid by the Library Foundation and not by the county.

The vacant page position has been included in the FY 10/11 budget. If kept in the budget, this position will be filled asap in the new fiscal year.

Building Repairs: Wilson noted that we have some lighting issues downstairs at the Morganton site. The issue is most likely ballasts and the county will be asked to fix the problem. Also having some HVAC issues at Morganton. Wilson said the long term solution may be to install new thermostats and give up the computerized control system which is more than ten years old.

General Library Update: Wilson stated circulation is up overall by 4 percent. This is down from last year but we are still seeing growth. Morganton is the same as last year; Valdese is up by 6 percent and Hildebrand by 39 percent. However, computer usage is down by a little more than 8 percent. Computer usage, Wilson said, is returning to pre-recession levels. New patron registration is up 24 percent. The libraries registered 5,400 new

patrons between July 2009 and April 2010.

Library staff is continuing registration efforts at the schools. All schools except Freedom High School – which may join next year – use Burke County’s library card for students to use in the school libraries. The program is also in some middle schools.

Wilson noted the library had received a \$5,000 Dollar General Literacy grant to promote adult literacy. Page Andersen, Information Services Librarian, developed the grant and the library will partner with the Burke County Literacy Council.

Cole House Project: No official word, Wilson said, about money from State Employees’ Credit Union Foundation but it appears our grant proposal will not be funded. Wilson mentioned the Janirve Foundation and the Phifer-Johnson Foundation as other possible sources of funding. Bakh said he would change some of the pictures to reflect this.

C.B. Hildebrand
Site Update: Wilson reported that the county manager would like him to report to the commissioners about this in the next few weeks. Wilson said his report is ready. Wilson also noted that Hildebrand Mayor, Karen Robinson, had mentioned the possibility of the library relocating to the eastern Burke Alternative School site behind Hildebrand Town Hall since the alternative schools will be consolidating.

Online Opportunity
Hardware Grant: The library system is in its final year of the grant and has received its final payment of just over \$18,000.

Committee Reports: None

Unfinished Business: None

New Business: None

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 4:37 p.m.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, July 27, 2010, at 4:00 p.m. at the Morganton Public Library.

Respectfully submitted : Jim Wilson