

Burke County Public Library
Departmental Trustees Meeting
May 24, 2011, 4:00 p.m.
Valdese Town Hall

Trustees Present: Bakh Alam, Johnnie Carswell, Rose Ann Childres, Vickie Oxentine, Mark Rostan, Reba Williams, Gail Williamson, and Anna Wilson.

Trustees Absent: Melanie Mikusa, Steve Settlemeyer, John Whisnant, and Mary Ellen Wiese.

Staff Present: Jim Wilson

President Bakh Alam called the meeting to order at 4:07.

(Thanks to Vickie for the cake and strawberries!)

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from previous meeting were approved.

Financial Report: Director Jim Wilson said the library system is OK financially and should remain so through the end of the year. He presented a budget update later in the meeting.

Staffing Update: The two library staff positions remain frozen through end of the year. The staff member on maternity leave will return in June.

Facilities Update: Wilson said the facilities are generally in good shape at all locations. There are some lighting issues in Morganton. In addition, the landscaping at Valdese has been spruced by the master gardeners.

General Library Update: Circulation is down 6% systemwide but has stabilized, Wilson reported. Computer usage is down 19 percent. Patron registration continues to be strong. All high schools and at least two middle schools are now using the library's card to replace the school's card.

C.B. Hildebrand Site: Project is on hold at least until the new fiscal year budget is approved.

Wireless Internet Update: The new wireless internet connection is very close to being finished Wilson reported. He hopes the new system will be up and running by the end of June.

Summer Reading Program Update: Director Wilson commended staff on the number of programs to be offered this year and said people are already registering. He anticipates having 2,000 participants sign up. Last year, participants read well over 20,000 books during the six-week period.

In related news, Wilson said the library was turned down in its bid for a Big Read grant. However, the Library Foundation has decided to fund

the community reading project and will buy 500 paperback editions of “Fahrenheit 451” by Ray Bradbury. The event will start the last week in September and have numerous activities associated with it. The library will have a booth at the Historic Morganton Festival.

Wilson noted that at least 300 people attended the ASU Steel Drum Band concert in April. The Friends of the Library spring book sale raised \$800 and Taste of Culture drew at least 500 people to the library’s lawn in Morganton.

FY 2011-2012
Budget Update

The county manager recommended a budget for FY 2011-2012 of \$1,182,590. This would be 4 percent less than the current year. The county’s contribution would be reduced by 5 percent. Wilson said the Foundation has set aside funds so the book budget can be maintained but questioned if the funds can be provided for another year. The adult program coordinator and a page position are slated to be eliminated as part of the 5 percent reduction. The City of Morganton said it may reduce its contribution by 10% or \$21,500. Valdese will likely reduce its contribution by \$5,000 or 10 percent; Hildebran may double its contribution (from \$2,000 to \$4,000) and Drexel will likely remain the same at \$2,000. With other reductions, primarily state aid, the library could face an \$80,000 to \$90,000 short fall. Wilson said his proposed budget can absorb \$61,000 in reductions without reducing services, programs, or materials. With help from the Library Foundation, he thinks the library can maintain current levels of services, programs, and materials through FY 11/12. He is not sure that the Foundation will be able to make up the difference in FY 12/13.

The meeting adjourned at 4:47 p.m.

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, July 26, 2011, at 4 p.m. at Hildebran Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted by Anna Wilson