

Special Meeting

AGENDA POLK COUNTY LIBRARY FEDERATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**@ the library
400 Polk County Plaza
Balsam Lake WI 54810
Wednesday, May 9, 2012
1:00 p.m.**

**Call to Order
Approval of Agenda
Public Comment**

**Resolution No---12
Funding for Jail Literacy and Phase-Out of the Polk County Library
Federation (May 15- Polk County Board of Supervisors Meeting):**

Items for next month's agenda

Adjournment

This meeting is open to the public according to Wisconsin State Statute 19.83. Persons with disabilities wishing to attend and /or participate are asked to notify the County Clerks' office (715-485-9226) at least 24 hours in advance of the scheduled meeting time so all reasonable accommodations can be made. Requests are confidential.

If board members are unable to attend, they are asked to please call 485-8680 by 9a.m the day of the meeting

Special Meeting
Wednesday May 9, 2012, 1:00
Polk County Library Federation
Board of Trustees

Call to Order: Chairman Nate Deprey called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Board Members present: John Bonneprise, Duana Bremer, Warren Nelson, Edna Bjorkman, Nate Deprey. Director Colleen Foxwell was present. Absent: Tanna Worrell and Greg Bowman.

Approval of Agenda: Motion to approve by Mr. Nelson, seconded by Mr. Bonneprise, motion carried.

Public Comment: Present: Christine LaFond, Clear Lake Head Librarian, who assisted with writing the current library plan. She is a highly qualified librarian who has a masters degree in library science and all certifications, a successful village librarian.

Linda Ellefson, former Dresser library director, retired.

Kay Fitzgerald, Polk County Library Federation Technology Specialist

Kathryn Kienholtz, Milltown, Friends of the Polk County Library Treasurer.

Observers: Brian Masters, R.J. Hartung, Bob Blake

Comments:

Director LaFond and retired Director Ellefson clarified the working relationship between municipal libraries and the Polk County Library Federation (PCLF) They see the PCLF mission properly responds to library patrons service requests in accordance with Wisconsin Statute 43.57. It is reasonable to expect that requests for library service differs greatly from when the Polk County Library Federation was established in 1974. Director Foxwell is required to submit an annual report to the Department of Public Instruction (DPI). If PCLF was not in compliance with state statutes, DPI would have notified her and demanded changes. Her annual reports continue to be accepted and approved by DPI. All Polk County Librarians submit annual reports to DPI and follow established guidelines.

Half of the Polk County Municipal librarians are part-time directors who depend on the PCLF to help them serve their patrons. Most of the municipal libraries would not have the budget, staff, or the time to assume any of the services provided by the Federation.

Mr. Frey did not interview the Clear Lake librarian or the Dresser librarian for his evaluation. He may not have surveyed all ten of the librarians to present an accurate picture of library activity. County supervisors need accurate information instead of outdated assumptions to make an informed decision.

Mr. Frey expressed concerns about the current Polk County Plan for Library Service. The plan is due for revision this year, 2012. A planning committee is currently being formed.

It is difficult to assign dollar values to the myriad services provided by libraries. Circulation statistics is not an adequate measure.

People from Clear Lake and Clayton who are in Amery Health Care Centers benefit from PCLF programs. Clear Lake Municipal Library could not serve them

Additional Discussion:

An important fact that county supervisors need to know and understand: There is very minimal duplication of services between municipal libraries and the Polk County Library Federation. With the reduction of services from the Indianhead Library Federation, the Polk County Library Federation had to help libraries find technology help. Grant writing became essential to replace the loss of resources from the Indianhead Federation. If the library federation is shut down, valuable services and programs will be gone forever. Ms. Fitzgerald has done an outstanding job keeping library computers operating, and teaching library patrons computer skills. It is important to evaluate what the county loses to try to save a minimum expense for providing valuable services.

Providing a jail reading program without the federation would be difficult and expensive.

- Space problems

- Budget and ability to acquire proper reading materials

- Mending of materials

- Qualified librarian to administer the program

Director Foxwell's salary was improperly publicized without explaining the value of grant funds and unique services she provides to Polk County residents in libraries, health care centers, jail, schools, and the disabled. The director's salary is mandated by the state; county supervisors can not dictate her salary.

The PCLF has properly evolved to serve Polk County Library patrons. Not mission drift—but adequately responding to Polk County library patrons' changing requests.

The Polk County Library Board needs time to sort out funding sources and to find efficient ways to serve residents who are unable to visit a library. Withdrawal from the more System entails a minimum of one-year notice to the IFLS Board and undetermined costs.

Edna Bjorkman, Secretary