

AKRON-SUMMIT COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING  
JANUARY 14, 2023

President Bernie Rochford called the special meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Akron-Summit County Public Library to order at 9:06 am in the Lolita K. Adair Board Room of Main Library. The following members of the Board answered the roll call: James Casey, Joseph Ferrise, John Frola, William Rich, Bernie Rochford, and Ray Weber. Angela Neeley was absent. Present from the Library staff were Pam Hickson-Stevenson, Michelle Scarpitti, Michelle Alleman, and Peter Schantz.

Mr. Weber moved, seconded by Mr. Rich, to adopt the agenda as amended, moving item 2 to the end of the meeting. The motion was adopted without dissent.

23-1  
AGENDA  
APPROVED

Peter Schantz, Facilities Director, presented an overview of information from the systemwide facilities assessment he previously shared with the Board. The total of the capital spending plan is projected to be between \$63 million and \$65 million. He highlighted the fact that fourteen of the facilities renovated or rebuilt using funds from the previous bond issue campaign were completed over the span of five years. He also reviewed a building life cycle model and its five stages, the assessment tool he developed, and a cash flow analysis. He continued by drawing attention to key facilities issues: the increasing rate mechanical failures; the need for updated HVAC and lighting controls; old life safety systems; roofing costs; the need to reprogram (architecturally) and update the branches and Main Library; and the goal of completing needed work in twelve years. He showed a proposed model of two phases to operationalize the necessary expenditures. Phase One would focus on addressing mechanical needs, building controls, building automation, and lighting upgrades through an LED retrofit. Phase Two would focus on building envelopes, including roofs; furniture, fixtures and equipment; grounds; and finishes, including floor coverings and wall finishes.

REVIEW OF  
PRELIMINARY  
FACILITIES  
ASSESSMENT

Pam Hickson-Stevenson, Executive Director, presented an overview of considerations for seeking capital funds to address the Library's building needs. She reviewed the history of the Library's levy ballot issues, a tentative schedule of other tax issues that may be on the ballot for the next seven years, and a history of Public Library Fund dollars. She also presented information on the timing of a voted issue and the types of issues the Library Board could consider to raise the needed funds.

REVIEW OF  
PUBLIC FINANCE  
OPTIONS AND OF  
TIMING

Board members discussed the information presented by both Mr. Schantz and Ms. Hickson-Stevenson. They also expressed opinions that seeking approval for a permanent improvement levy before the current operating levy is on the ballot seemed to be the best option. They agreed that the Ohio General Assembly's decision regarding the Public Library Fund would be an important factor in determining next steps.

Mr. Rochford asked the Board members for their opinions on the structure and function of Board committee meetings. Mr. Casey suggested all matters should be introduced and discussed at the monthly regular Board meetings rather than first introduced and discussed at the committee level. He felt the opportunity for all Board members to participate in discussions was important and that setting aside one day per month for Library issues instead of two or three was a better option for their schedules.

STRUCTURE  
AND FUNCTION  
OF BOARD  
COMMITTEE  
MEETINGS

Mr. Rochford and Mr. Weber stated they could see a benefit of having only one date per month but questioned how long the regular Board meetings would last. Mr. Rich stated the Board meetings could last as long as two or three hours. Another option could be to schedule regular dates for committee meetings and then cancel the meetings if they were not needed. Mr. Rochford suggested that the Board continue the discussion at another meeting.

There were no requests for public participation.

PUBLIC  
PARTICIPATION

Having reached the end of the agenda, Mr. Rochford adjourned the meeting at 11:44 am.

ADJOURNMENT

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President

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Secretary