

AKRON-SUMMIT COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
DECEMBER 20, 2024

President Angela Neeley called the special meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Akron-Summit County Public Library to order at 9:30 a.m. 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, Jr., Angela Neeley, William Rich, Bernie Rochford and Ray Weber. Present from Library staff were Pamela Hickson-Stevenson, Michelle Scarpitti, Michelle Alleman, Mike Bianchi, Pat Manning, Peter Schantz, Sara Schwendeman, and Dana Setting. Rick Ortmeier, Bostwick Design Partnership, was also present.

Mr. Rochford moved, seconded by Mr. Frola, to adopt the agenda as distributed. The motion was adopted without dissent. 24-127
AGENDA

Ms. Hickson-Stevenson, Executive Director, reported that the Library has received the official certifications from the County confirming amounts, the estimates of which had been distributed previously. The revenue generated by 0.95 and 1.0 mills, as bonds issued for twenty years at an average of 5% interest, would bring in \$152 million and \$160 million respectively. The cost for a homeowner with a home valued at \$100,000 would be approximately \$33.25 per year and \$35 per year respectively. Ms. Hickson-Stevenson believes the Library, by asking for the support, is protecting the taxpayers made in 1997 and is positioning the Library to continue moving into this century with the type of Library system the community wants and needs. RESULTS OF SUMMIT
COUNTY FISCAL
OFFICE TAX
VALUATION
CERTIFICATIONS

Ms. Hickson-Stevenson announced that, if the Trustees approve one of the bond issue millages, the Resolution of Necessity Requesting Summit County Council to Submit the Question of a Levy form will need to be signed and submitted to request the County to place the Library bond issue on the ballot. RESOLUTION OF
NECESSITY
REQUESTING SUMMIT
COUNTY COUNCIL TO
SUBMIT THE

Mr. Frola moved, seconded by Mr. Rich, to put forth the Resolution of Necessity Requesting Summit County Council to Submit the Question of a Levy at 0.95 mill. The Board Trustees discussed concerns that the architectural estimates might fall short due to the length of time for the project and possible inflation. They questioned if 1.0 mill might be more prudent to allow for opportunities to address any potential gaps in the estimates that could occur. The Trustees recalled other local levies that regrettably missed their goals due to unforeseen circumstances and deficits in projections. QUESTION OF A LEVY

It was also questioned, once the project is complete, and if the Library hasn't expended all the bond money, would the Library be able to use any reserves it has for capital expenses in the future. Library Administration recently learned from its bond attorney that a petition would need to be submitted to the Court of Common Pleas to transfer any unspent bond monies because the Ohio Revised Code requires approval by the county court.

Ms. Hickson-Stevenson added the 0.95 millage estimate would not cover the low-estimate costs inclusive of a possible stand-alone branch for Springfield-Lakemore if the Trustees wish to explore that option.

Mr. Frola amended the motion, seconded by Mr. Rich, to submit the Resolution of Necessity Requesting Summit County Council to Submit the Question of a Levy at 1.0 mill. The Trustees considered any adverse impact on the voters approving 1.0 mill bond issue. They also considered that hedging against potential inflation and unforeseen circumstances that come with renovations, however, would be judicious. The Trustees agreed the millage protects the investment taxpayers already made in the past.

Ms. Hickson-Stevenson introduced Rick Ortmeier, Bostwick Design Partnership, who conducted the public engagement sessions and reviewed the public survey results as part of the feasibility study. Mr. Ortmeier shared the Library received more than 1,700 survey results. Two items of feedback from every location were the tremendous appreciation respondents have for the Library staff and services and the acknowledgment that the buildings were aging but remained clean and tidy. Main themes included the need for more technology, meeting and collaboration spaces, charging stations, and makerspace areas. Mr. Ortmeier stated it is important to position the Library buildings to be flexible enough for evolving trends. While the primary age range of responses included people over 65, the survey received a lot of responses from ages 25-65 as well. Since the survey invited critical input, this empowers the Library and the Board of Trustees to state they have heard from the community, and this is how it is being addressed.

With no further discussion, Ms. Neeley asked for a roll call vote, resulting in a unanimous decision as follows: Mr. Casey – Yes; Mr. Ferrise – Yes; Mr. Frola – Yes; Ms. Neeley – Yes; Mr. Rich – Yes; Mr. Rochford – Yes; Mr. Weber – Yes.

24-128
APPROVED
RESOLUTION OF
NECESSITY
REQUESTING SUMMIT
COUNTY COUNCIL TO
SUBMIT THE
QUESTION OF A LEVY
AT 1.0 MILL

There was no public participation.

PUBLIC
PARTICIPATION

With no further business, Ms. Neeley adjourned the meeting at 10:03 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

President

Secretary