



Lewistown Public Library’s Mission Statement:

“The Lewistown Public Library provides free and equal access to quality materials and services, which fulfill the educational, informational, cultural, and recreational needs of the entire community.”

1:30 PM Call to order -- roll call – Special meeting of the Library Board of Trustees was called to order by Mary Frieze. Members present: Mary Frieze, Cathy Moser, Jean Collins, Mariah Shammel, Gayle Doney, Arlene Mari. Director: Alissa Wolenetz.

Appoint Recorder of Minutes: Alissa Wolenetz.

Mission Statement: Cathy Moser read the mission statement.

Revisions to the Agenda: “Approval of December 15, 2021 Special Meeting #10 minutes for both regular and closed sessions” corrected to “Approval of December 15, 2021 Special Meeting #9 minutes for both regular and closed sessions”

Approval of Special Meeting #9 minutes for regular session: Jean moved to approve the minutes. Gayle seconded the motion. All in favor.

Approval of Special Meeting #9 minutes for closed session: Mariah moved to approve the minutes. Gayle seconded the motion. All in favor.

Discussion of Martin Luther King Jr. holiday for Library staff:

The Board discussed with the Director the holiday hours issue and the City Manager’s response. The Board considered including the Library’s structure for holiday hours in an MOU and publishing all holiday hours for the upcoming year in the paper. Gayle moved to close the Library on Friday, January 14, 2022 from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. and on Saturday, January 15, 2022 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Jean seconded. All in favor.

Discussion of presentation for City Commission:

The Board discussed a tour of the Library for the Committee of the Whole.

Review of letter from Craig Buehler and consideration of legal counsel:

The Board reviewed the letter from Craig Buehler.

The Board discussed hiring a lawyer. The Board discussed options for funding this, and wanted additional legal guidance about what funds could be used to hire a lawyer. The Board would like a ballpark estimate or flat rate for legal services before engaging someone. Possible lawyers and timeframes were considered. April was the preferred month for negotiations, although that may vary based on the schedule of the Board's potential legal counsel.

The history and origins of the current MOU were also discussed. The relationship of the current MOU to the MMIA issue was considered.

Some edits were made to the letter from Craig Buehler based on input from the Board. It was decided that after edits, the letter would be presented at the January 20, 2022 regular meeting of the Board for the Chairperson's signature.

Review of research by individual Board members:

Board members presented on the sections of the legal documents for the Library which they had reviewed. The consequences of not upholding State law for Board Trustees were also discussed, as was the non-delegable nature of the Board's duties. Lisa Mecklenberg Jackson's letter to this effect was reviewed by the Board.

The Board decided to wait to discuss engaging legal counsel until their next meeting.

(3:52 PM Gayle moved to adjourn the meeting. Jean seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned.)

Respectfully Submitted: Alissa Wolenetz, Library Director.