

MASCOUTAH PUBLIC LIBRARY
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SEPTEMBER 18, 2012

The Board of Trustees of the Mascoutah Public Library held its regular meeting at the library on September 18, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

The following named Trustees were present: Nancy Larson, Roger Grodeon, Frank Bandre, Wayne Wilhelm, Linda Tribout, Anne Schorr, Jordan Kneschke and Merly Friedland; absent was Suzy Friederich. Also present was Library Director Marian Albers.

President Nancy Larson presided and Merly Friedland recorded the minutes.

No public comments were heard or submitted. The minutes of the last Board meeting held on August 21, 2012 were approved as written.

Financial Report: Frank presented the Balance Sheet as of August 31, 2012 and the statements of income and expenses for the month of August, 2012 and the year-to-date period from May 1 to August 31, 2012. Property tax receipts represent approximately 57% of budgeted amount. At this point of the fiscal year, expenses are pretty much in line with the budget.

Frank informed the Board that St. Clair County recently revised its assessments of residential property values, including those in Mascoutah. It has been noted by many city residents that the reassessments reflected decreased property values, apparently consistent with economic conditions and prevailing weakness in the real estate market. In light of this development, the county may be collecting less tax on depressed property values, which could negatively impact the library's share of property taxes in the near future. Frank suggests that we deal with this uncertainty in a prudent manner, by putting on hold the implementation of certain projects, improvements and acquisitions for the library, that were going to be funded with cost savings and surplus from the prior fiscal year. Following discussion, it was the consensus of the Board that surplus funds should be preserved at this time.

Upon a motion by Roger, seconded by Linda, the Board unanimously approved the above stated financial statements and ordered that the same be filed for audit.

Director's Report: Please refer to the Director's written report for September, 2012, with comparative details on circulation statistics, interlibrary loans, and non-resident registrations for August 2012 vs. August 2011. The report included comments and updates on: 1) New Director Computer 2) Roof Grant 3) Illinois State Library and Illinois Library Association meetings 4) Light Box Parade 5) High School Coop Program 6) Director's meetings/events, and 7) Meeting and Study Room Use.

Director's Report-continued:

Circulation statistics reveal a growing trend in the OverDrive checkouts. The wide discrepancy in other areas of circulation between August 2012 and August 2011 were viewed as not meaningful, due to the late start of school last year and early start this year.

In compliance with library laws, Marian and the Board resumed the review and discussion of Per Capita Grant Requirements for FY2012-2014. The following subjects were covered in detail: 1) 75 ILCS 10/8 – State Grants, and 2) 75 ILCS 10/8.1 – Eligibility for Grants. The Board reviewed a list of supplemental taxes and identified potential supplemental tax funding for the library.

The Board then discussed the need for a new computer for the Director. Marian submitted a quote from Lazerware.

Upon a motion made by Roger, seconded by Linda, the Board approved by unanimous voice vote, the purchase of a new computer for the Director for \$1,477.17 from Lazerware.

Unfinished Business: Roof project – Martin Roofing originally planned to start work on the roof the week of September 13 but failed to meet its' schedule. New starting date has been set for next week.

New Business: Marian brought up a matter relating to Personal Property Replacement Tax or the corporate library tax which started in 1977. It is unclear whether the library was ever entitled to receive a portion of this tax. Marian has begun collecting information for the purpose of determining whether the library qualifies for this tax. After we have gathered adequate information on this matter, the Board will decide as to whether certain actions would be required of the library.

Adjournment: There being no further business, President Nancy, declared the meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m. The next Board Meeting will be held on November 20, 2012.

Merly T. Friedland
Secretary