



## **Board of Trustees Regular Session Wednesday, March 15, 2017**

**Present:** Traci Black, Ethel DeFosse, Valerie Harsh, Lois Holt, Pepper Pehrson,  
Nick Skene

**Excused:** Drew Pearson

**Others:** Kim Fong; Library Director, Traci Sutherland; Library Staff, Justin Zollinger; Murray City Finance Director

1. **Call to Order:** President Black called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Valerie Harsh made a motion to change the order of the meeting so that Justin Zollinger could present first, seconded by Pepper Pehrson. Voting was unanimous in favor.
2. **Approval of Minutes**  
2.1 February 2017  
The minutes of the February 2017 meeting were approved as written on a motion made by Lois Holt, seconded by Ethel DeFosse. Voting was unanimous in favor.
3. **Public Comment**  
None
4. **Financial Report**  
Director Fong reviewed the financial reports. Valerie Harsh made a motion to receive and file the reports, seconded by Nick Skene. Voting was unanimous in favor.
5. **Property Tax- Justin Zollinger Presenting**  
Justin Zollinger presented information to Board members about taxes in Murray City and Library funding. He also discussed the possible tax increase with Board members.  
Board members had previously discussed asking the City Council to consider a tax increase this year, not only for operational costs, but also to help in creating a building fund. Director Fong, President Black and Mr. Zollinger met with the Mayor, and while he strongly supports a tax increase for the Library, he thinks it

would be advantageous to wait one more year before asking for an increase. Mr. Zollinger told Board members that he recognizes that an increase is badly needed to help fund operating costs for the Library, but he agrees with the Mayor that it would be advantageous to wait for asking for that increase. This year is an election year, and members of the City Council who are up for re-election may be hesitant about approving a tax increase so close to the election. Also, next year, Murray City will be asking for a tax increase, and the Library could be included in that increase. The Mayor would prefer not to have these increases become an election year issue.

Director Fong told Board members that she felt that if the tax increase waited a year it would give Library staff and Board members to create a strong campaign educating citizens about the need for a tax increase.

Lois Holt asked Justin Zollinger if he felt that it was in our best interest to wait a year before asking for an increase. He does feel it would be best to wait for a year. In that time, the City will have more concrete plans with regards to the relocation of City Hall and possible relocation of the Library. It will also not be an election year next year, so there would be less politics involved in the decision the Council will make. He said that he understands this will make for a tight budget for the Library this year, but it will be for the best in the long run. Both Director Fong and President Black said that they agreed with this assessment. Board members thanked Justin Zollinger for attending and he left the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

Nick Skene had prepared a document comparing numbers from the Library budget the past few years. Board members discussed this information. Board members also discussed other options for supplementing the Library budget since it will be so tight such as grants, or support from the Friends of the Library.

6. Board Reports

The new website is finally up and running. Board members continued to discuss the Director's employee review. Director Fong will email Board members her goals for the last year for their review.

7. Old Business

7.1 2018 Budget

The 2018 budget was previously discussed as part of the property tax review with Justin Zollinger.

Lois Holt made a motion to vote to approve the 2017-18 budget as outlined, but noted that the Board will continue throughout the next budget year to explore other options for increasing the Library budget as operational and other costs continue to rise. The motion was seconded by Valerie Harsh, voting was unanimous in favor.

8. New Business

President Black will not be at the April meeting, so as vice-president, Pepper Pehrson will lead the meeting.

9. Adjournment

Valerie Harsh made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Lois Holt. Voting was unanimous in favor, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.