

MINUTES OF THE FENNVILLE DISTRICT LIBRARY
BOARD of TRUSTEES
February 20, 2025

Present: Robin Buchler, Robert Sherwood, Donna Matula, Willow VandenBerg, Jodi Martin, Becky Jamros, Kathleen Yankee

Absent: Marilyn Jessup

Staff Present: Teresa Kline

Observers Present: None

Meeting Called to Order: 4:01 pm

Approval of Agenda: *Yankee moved, VandenBerg seconded approval of the agenda with the addition of Passed 7-0.*

Approval of Minutes: *Sherwood moved, Jamros seconded approval of minutes of January . Passed 7-0.*

Public Comments: None

Correspondence: None

Financial and Budget: Millage is starting to come in. Fennville DDA captured \$2358.89 of our millage. Financial reports received and filed.

Director's Report:

- Downstairs Men's bathroom repairs are finally done. Check for \$2261.97 cut for Brent who has proved to be an excellent resource.
- Abi has signed children up for the Neighborhood Forest program. Each child will received a free tree on Arbor Day!
- The county health department has dropped off Radon Testing Kits.
- The Joan Donaldson book launch on February 11th was well attended. Joan gave a talk about her writing process.
- A high school student from Hamilton job-shadowed Teresa for a week.
- Two problem patrons have made the library's atmosphere and work environment very difficult for staff. Teresa is dealing with it with the board's strong support.

President's Remarks:

Board Member's Remarks: Yankee mentioned how helpful the Trustee Manual is for new board members. Sherwood expressed appreciation for board members support of him and Julia in her current health crisis.

Committee Reports: None

Unfinished Business:

- Parking Lot – no new information at this time.
- Earned Sick Time / Sick Leave Act. Legislature is voting today under deadline and so current policy is that whatever the State of Michigan policy is, we will follow.

New Business:

- Bed Bug Policy: bed bugs are becoming an issue at some libraries with them arriving at the library tucked into books. *Yankee moved, Matula seconded to approve the new policy (attached). Passed 7-0*

-Book Lovers Book Club – a new book club starting on March 20th. Those who attend will read for a half hour and then recommend books to one another.

New Business:
(continued)

-Abi applied to the CMU Clarke Memorial Library's Digital Michigan Newspaper Grant program for a grant to have our Fennville Herald archives digitized. We won! Copies of the Herald from 1941 – 1956 will be digitized and housed at the Clarke website.
-We will have a Pay-It-Forward opportunity in the library again in April. A library patron has once again offered a matching funds challenge.
-Parking Lot financing: details on separate page attached. Do we want to also do a fundraiser? The board's response is 'yes!' Fundraiser involvement increases ownership in the community. Teresa, Becky and Jodi will gather ideas.
-The library has received a donation of paintings by Bruce Cascia with the directive they can be sold for the library's benefit. Teresa has sought advice from other libraries and a silent auction seems to be the best option.
-We have a painting on display in the library by Louis Ritman. Teresa will look into having it appraised as some of his paintings are quite valuable.
-Beautify Pullman: Teresa met with representatives of the group to discuss options for serving the Pullman population better. They have decided not to pursue having their own library. Options for a book vending machine were presented and will be explored.

Gifts: *Matula moved, VandenBerg seconded to receive the gifts listed in the packet. Passed 7-0.*

Public Comment: None

Adjournment: *Yankee moved, Buchler seconded to adjourn at 5:22. Passed 7-0*

Next Meeting: March 20, 2025 at 4:00pm

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Yankee, Secretary