



APPALACHIAN REGIONAL LIBRARY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Watauga County Public Library and via Zoom

Thursday, November 18, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.

(Action items in **bold**.)

Present in person: Doug Butler, Jan Noffsinger, Kyle Hall, Margaret Love, Beth Tharrington, Bill Davis; for the library, Jane Blackburn, Director; Tammy Holston, Finance/Personnel Manager; Laura McPherson, Ashe County Librarian; Monica Caruso, Watauga County Librarian. Present representing Combs, Tennant & Carpenter, PC: Brady Combs. Present via Zoom: Ala Sue Moretz, Roberta Jackson. Joann Crawley, Casey Joe Johnson, Wilkes County Librarian Suzanne Moore. Absent with notice: Becky Ball, Sandi Basel.

1. Call to Order at 1:00 pm

2. Additions/Deletions and Approval of Agenda

Jane asked that we add "Request to close libraries December 24-27." Margaret Love made a motion to approve the agenda as amended, Beth Tharrington seconded, and all approved.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the regular September 2021 meeting

Bill Davis made a motion to approve the minutes with no changes, Jan Noffsinger seconded, and all approved.

4. Audit Report by Combs, Tennant & Carpenter, PC

Brady Combs said the audit was "unmodified" which is as good a rating as possible. He highlighted some portions of the audit report and answered some questions.

5. Correspondence and Communications

6. Reports: County Librarians and Regional Director
See attached.

7. Unfinished Business
None

8. Reports of Standing Committees

Budget and Finance

•21-22 Local budget revisions

•21-22 State Aid budget revisions

Tammy Holston reviewed the budget revisions. Doug Butler, representing the committee, made a motion to approve the revisions and all voted in favor. See attached budget documents.

•CDs have matured

Tammy reported that our CDs (holding idle funds) will mature in December and that we need to decide where to put the money. Interest rates are terrible, so she recommended rolling over all CDs except the Watauga Building Fund CD, money from which might be needed next year for a feasibility study for raising money for the building expansion. Doug made a motion to act in accordance with Tammy's recommendation and all voted in favor.

Governance:

•Revision to Circulation policies for hotspots and Chromebooks, addition of laptops as circulating items, and

addition of language about the grace day

Kyle Hall, representing the committee, recommended that the revisions be approved and all voted in favor.

Personnel:

•Director's Annual Evaluation for 2021

After some discussion, Bill Davis made **a motion that the board review and possibly change the questions on the Director's Evaluation and that all staff fill out the evaluation on the Director.** Kyle Hall seconded, and the motion passed with one negative vote.

9. New Business

•Discussion of extending temporary COVID Leave December 1, 2021-January 31, 2022

After some discussion about how long to treat COVID differently from other illnesses, Bill Davis made a motion to extend ARL's temporary COVID paid sick leave through the end of January 2022 and to reassess the situation at the January ARL meeting at which Tammy will provide information about how much money the region has spent on COVID leave. Kyle Hall seconded, and the motion passed.

•Discussion of extending mask requirement for indoor programs through March 31, 2022

After some discussion about the end date of this motion, Jan Noffsinger made a motion that the requirement to wear a mask at indoor library programs be extended through the end of January 2022 and to reassess the situation at the January ARLB meeting. Beth Tharrington seconded and the motion passed.

•Approval of a Food For Fines week in each library each year until fines are eliminated

Margaret Love made this motion, Jan Noffsinger seconded, and the motion passed.

•Request to close libraries December 24-27

Kyle Hall made the motion to close all ARL libraries December 24-December 27, Beth Tharrington seconded, and the motion passed.

10. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Next meeting January 20, 2022 at the Ashe County Public Library or via Zoom.