

The Mission of LARL is to enrich lives and strengthen communities.

**LARL BOARD OF TRUSTEES
FULL BOARD MEETING
MINUTES**

A meeting of the Lake Agassiz Regional Library Full Board was held on Thursday, January 18, 2024 online via Zoom. President Kalil called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.

Board Members Present: Caroon, Ebinger, Geray, Jacobson, Kalil (*President*), Menard, Nelson, Shastri, Titera, Willhite, Wood.

Board Members Absent: Busko, Durant, Holecek, Johnson.

Others Present: Lynch, Sprynczynatyk.

PUBLIC INPUT

None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

(Ebinger/Caroon) Move to approve the January 18, 2024 Full Board Meeting agenda with the addition of a Compensation Study topic. MCU.

MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 16, 2023 FULL BOARD MEETING

(Willhite/Wood) Move to approve the Minutes of the November 16, 2023 Full Board Meeting as presented. MCU.

WELCOME TO NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Kalil welcomed Tim Menard, Crookston, to the LARL Board.

Menard recited the Oath of Office.

FINANCIAL REPORT

With 100% of 2023 complete, LARL spent 97.5% of budgeted expenses. The financial report is “preliminary” and will change as the year is closed out and LARL prepares for the annual financial audit.

Sprynczynatyk discussed that Basic Support (RLBSS) is \$123,700 over budget, due to funding legislation changed in August. Miscellaneous Revenue is at 165.46% of budget due to the market value of Municipal Bonds increasing significantly from October to December. Interest Revenue is at 164.10% of budget due to high interest rates in 2023. Personnel Expenses at 96.63% of budget due to staffing turnover.

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Minutes of the January 18, 2024 Full Board Meeting – Page 2

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

(Jacobson/Ebinger) Move to approve the list of authorized institutions for 2024 as reviewed and recommended by the Finance Committee: Bell Bank and Edward Jones. MCU.

(Jacobson/Caroon) Move to approve the 2024 Budget as reviewed and recommended by the Finance Committee. MCU.

(Jacobson/Willhite) Move to approve the 2024 Designated Funds as reviewed and recommended by the Finance Committee. MCU.

Lynch discussed that she has been in contact with Bjorklund Compensation Consulting, LLC about possibly doing a LARL Compensation Study. With Union negotiations coming up in the fall and recent issues with filling open positions the study might be helpful. The study will cost \$2,100 and can be covered by LARL's operating budget.

(Titera/Menard) Move LARL should contract with Bjorklund Compensation Consulting to do a LARL compensation study. MCU

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Lynch discussed that she has spent a lot of time recently interviewing and hiring LARL staff.

LARL locations (and several other libraries around the state) have recently received non-credible threatening phone calls. Local authorities told the LARL locations that they handled the threats appropriately. Going forward if additional calls are received LARL will treat them as creditable until authorities tell them different.

The Governor has included \$1,000,000 in bonding for Library constructions grants in his budget proposal. Libraries will be working to request \$20,000,000 be included in the budget.

MOORHEAD LIBRARY/LARL HEADQUARTERS BUILDING PROJECT

Lynch discussed they are still having weekly meetings. The basic design of the library is almost complete. Caroon discussed that recently exterior finish, materials, more detailed conversations about lighting, sustainability and a library that is easy to care for have been focuses of the meetings.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

(Ebinger/Menard) Move to approve the 2024 Board Meeting Schedule as presented. MCU.

(Willhite/Menard) Move to approve the 2024 Board Committee Assignments as presented. MCU.

(continued on next page)

Minutes of the January 18, 2024 Full Board Meeting – Page 3

PRESIDENT’S REPORT - continued

Kalil attended the MLA convention in October. The Keynote speaker was from MN but is now the Director of the Brooklyn NY library. He has headed a program to provide ebook access to young people, regardless of residency.

Senator Mary Kunesch was recognized for taking the lead on getting Library funding increased and an RLBSS formula change.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS:

Becker County (Kalil, Nelson)

No report

Breckenridge (Holecek - absent)

No report

Clay County (Ebinger)

No report

Clearwater County (Titera)

No report

Crookston (Menard)

Menard attended his first advisory meeting. He is working with Boike and the Crookston Public Works Director to facilitate a maintenance schedule for the Library.

Detroit Lakes (Wood)

There have been roof repairs, the weather this year hasn’t really tested the repairs so they are waiting to see if recent repairs are sufficient. There have been issues with the furnace in the library, there are space heaters being used, but it is cold in the library but they have been able to stay open as they work through the issue.

City of Mahanomen (Durant-absent)

No report.

Mahanomen County (Geray)

No report.

Moorhead (Caroon, Johnson-absent, Shastri)

Moorhead had a ceiling leak issue in late December. The leak has stopped and city employees can’t find the cause. New staff are being trained in. Plans for the new Moorhead Library can be seen on www.yes56560.com.

Norman County (Jacobsen)

Norman County’s new \$10,000,000 highway building is complete and has been moved into.

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BOARD MEMBER REPORTS – continued:

Polk County (Willhite)

Willhite will be serving as chair of the County board.

Wilkin County (Busko-absent)

No report.

MN Library Association/Library Trustee and Advocates Section (Kalil)

No report.

Northern Lights Library Network (Holecek-absent)

No report.

The meeting adjourned at 6:15.