

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

**LARL BOARD OF TRUSTEES
EXECUTIVE/FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES**

A joint meeting of the Lake Agassiz Regional Library Executive Board and Finance Committee was held on Thursday, April 17, 2025. President Ebinger called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.

Executive Committee Members Present: Ebinger (*Chair*), Jacobson, Nelson, Titera, Willhite.

Executive Committee Members Absent: None

Finance Committee Members Present: Ebinger (*ex officio*), Jacobson (*Chair*), Nelson, Titera.

Finance Committee Members Absent: Briggs.

Others Present: Lynch, Sprynczynatyk.

PUBLIC INPUT: None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

(Willhite/Jacobson) Move to approve the Agenda of the April 18, 2024 Executive/Finance Committee as presented. MCU.

MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 15, 2024 EXECUTIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE AND THE JANUARY 23, 2025 FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING.

(Jacobson/Titera) Move to approve the August 15, 2024 Executive Finance Committee Meeting Minutes as presented. MCU.

(Jacobson/Titera) Move to approve the January 23, 2025 Finance Committee Meeting Minutes as presented. MCU.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Sprynczynatyk discussed that through March, we are 25% of the way through the year and have spent 24.55% of the budget. The Accounting/Bank Fees line item is at 63.12% of budget due to the payment for the 2024 audit.

(over)

2025 PRELIMINARY BUDGET

Sprynczynatyk discussed Preliminary Draft #1 of the 2026 LARL budget. Salaries are budgeted at a 8% increase for union positions and 3% for all other employees. Health Insurance has been estimated to have a 10% increase based on suggestions by Lakes Country Service Coop at the 2025 renewal meeting, the actual increase will not be known until August. MN Paid Leave will be effective January 1, 2026. The cost will be .88% of salaries. The Committee suggested LARL follow the law and have LARL pay for .44% of the fee and LARL employees will pay for the other .44%. There was 1% or \$4,390 added to the materials budget.

Sprynczynatyk discussed several scenarios regarding the increases to Signatories. With the large increase to union pay in 2025 and 2026 coupled with a decrease in State funding a 3%, 5%, 8% 10% and 13% increase to Signatories was reviewed. The Committee suggested an 8% increase be included in draft #2 of the budget.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Lynch discussed that LARL's strategic planning process is starting. Community conversations will be happening soon to determine how LARL can best serve the communities.

Cuts in Federal Funds will indirectly affect libraries in MN. Inter Library Loan services and statewide delivery, and databases provided by the state will likely be cut.

A Detroit Lakes Library Director has been hired, Robbie Schake.

OTHER

The Committee discussed with the Regional Office Rent Sub Committee, the LARL proposal of \$12 per square foot and a 1% annual increase for 10 years and the City of Moorhead's counter proposal of \$25 per square foot and a 2% annual increase. Current lease rates around the Fargo Moorhead area were discussed and well as other Regional Library Systems in Minnesota. The Committee asked Lynch to inform the City that LARL is willing to increase their proposal to \$15 per square foot with a 2% annual increase, but that it would be contingent on approval by the LARL Board. The Sub Committee will meet with the City if LARL's new proposal isn't acceptable to the City. If a meeting is scheduled, the Committee asked that at least 2 members of the Moorhead City Council also attend a meeting when the City meets with the LARL Sub Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.