

Southeast Arkansas Regional Library

MINUTES

Regional Board Meeting

January 25, 2021

The Southeast Arkansas Regional Library Board met virtually via Zoom on Monday, January 25, 2021. The meeting was called to order by new Board President, Kim Forrest.

The minutes of October 19, 2020 were presented in printed form. Diane Parnell made the motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Dianna Harmon and the minutes were approved. The financial report was presented in printed form. The Director stated that the Region ended 2020 with \$120,000 left in the 2020 budget. Sandra Crofford made the motion to approve, Elgenia Ross gave the second and the motion was approved.

The Director read over her report to the board. The report included the technology updates that were made in Star City and the Region's two new Branch Managers, Lynda Greene and Shannon Rodriguez at the Hermitage and Monticello libraries and Covid updates.

The revised budget was under unfinished business. Under revenues the Director pointed out the counties that had corrections. The Director also reported two increases in 2021 expenses. There was an increase in health insurance from \$534 per month to \$734 per person and an increase to \$11 per hour for minimum wage. The budget committee recommended shifting \$25,000 from the 2020 budget to cover the cost of the increases. Debby Bland made the motion to accept the revised budget. Reathel Privett gave second and the motion was approved.

First, under new business was the selection of a new Vice-Chair. It has been the tradition of the board to choose the Vice-Chair on a rotating county basis in alphabetical order. This allows each county the opportunity to serve as chair. The current Chair is from Bradley County; therefore, the new Vice-Chair would be elected from Chicot County. Debby Bland offered to serve as vice-chair. Sandra Crofford made the motion to accept Debby Bland as vice-chair. Dianna Harmon made the second and the motion was approved. Bank Signature cards was next on the agenda. The Director reported the two new managers needed added to the branch bank accounts. Gaynell Jamison made the motion to remove Elizabeth Newman from all the Monticello Bank accounts and add Shannon Rodriguez. Reathel Privett gave the second and the motion passes. Diane Parnell made the motion to remove Jamie Thomas from the Hermitage Bank account and add Lynda Greene. Reathel Privett made the second and the motion passed.

Next, under new business, the budget committee recommended setting aside \$100,000 from the Region's discretionary fund to be used for branch improvements. Sandra Crofford and Diane Parnell made the motions that the following board members would serve as the committee to oversee the expenditures: Bradley - Cliff Morgan, Chicot - Vertie Staples, Desha - Jeri Brewer, Drew - Vicki Ross, and Lincoln - Jerry Moore. COVID leave was next on the agenda. The Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA or Act) requires certain employers to provide employees with paid sick leave or expanded family and medical leave for specified reasons related to COVID-19. These provisions expired on December 31, 2020. The Director recommended the Region continue to provide coverage for employees only until April 1st and then revisit. A discussion concerning the mandate and an extension through March. The item was tabled. Debby Bland made the motion to

issue the following statement from the board “In accordance with the recommendation issued by the Centers for Disease Control, the Southeast Arkansas Regional Library strongly encourages vaccination for COVID-19 for all employees”. Elgenia made the second and the motion passed.

The last item on the agenda was the rescheduling of the October board meeting at the request of the Director because of a scheduling conflict. Dianna Harmon made the motion to move the October Board meeting to October 11. Jeri Brewer gave seconded and the motion passed.

Under correspondence, Director Judy Calhoun, shared a letter written to the Secretary of Arkansas Department of Health, Dr. Romero, urging the inclusion of library workers in category 1B for receiving the COVID-19 vaccine

The next Regional Board meeting will be held on April 19, 2021 in Drew County (tentatively). A letter will be sent after the details have been arranged. A motion was made by Debby Bland and second by Vertie Staples to adjourn and the meeting was adjourned

Members present by Zoom: Debby Bland, Jeri Brewer, Sandra Crofford, Dinah Cox, Cristy Dunnahoe, Dianna Harmon, Kim Forrest, Gaynell Jamison, Ruth O’Loughlin, Diane Parnell, Bettye Presley, Reathel Privett, Elgenia Ross, Vicki Ross, Vertie Staples, Cindy Smith, Judge Richard Tindall, Vernestine Wilson, and Director, Judy Calhoun. Phone In: Cliff Morgan