



BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
Administrative Service Center
415 Tumwater Blvd. SW.
Tumwater, WA 98501
Wednesday, January 9, 2019
5:30 pm

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Hal Blanton, Bob Hall, Brenda Hirschi, Jenna Noll, Corby Varness, Joe Wheeler, Brian Zylstra

BOARD MEMBERS EXCUSED: All present

STAFF PRESENT: Cheryl Heywood, Allison Grubbs, Jeff Kleingartner, Eric Lowell, Walter Bracy, Andrea Heisel, Brenda Lane; recorder

President Wheeler welcomed everyone to Tumwater and called the Regular Board meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Hal Blanton led the pledge of allegiance
2. Welcome and Board Introductions
3. Approval of Agenda

19-01 – BOB HALL MADE A MOTION TO ADD BOARD COMMENTS UNDER ITEM #4. HAL BLANTON SECONDED. MOTION APPROVED.

4. Board Comments – Trustee Varness shared that she used the curbside pickup in Elma and it was so cool. The staff checked out her holds and brought them out to her. It worked great. Trustee Hall shared three things. First the work at the South Bend library started today, second, he

had asked that the discussion should be in the public information part of the meeting, and last, that he thought the Board meetings scheduled at the first of the month are only as long as we are doing something important not every month. It was clarified that the meetings are scheduled per Board motion to have a meeting on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month until further notice. Trustee Blanton shared that over the holiday weekend the White Pass ski resort closed and the town of Packwood filled up with lots of visitors. He was told by Elizabeth Squires, Packwood Library Manager, that they had over 300 people visit the library during that time.

5. Open Public Meetings Act Training – President Wheeler introduced Nancy Krier, Assistant Attorney General for Open Government from the Washington State Attorney General’s Office. Nancy shared that she has been doing this training for 5 years and is a huge fan of the library.
6. Public Comment – One person spoke about a recent article in a local newspaper highlighting the get well cards that the community is leaving on the door at the Montesano Library.
7. New Business
 - a. Resolution #19-001 – Accepting construction of the emergency generator and power switchover as complete.

19-02 – JENNA NOLL MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT RESOLUTION #19-001 AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE EMERGENCY GENERATOR AND POWER SWITCHOVER AT THE SERVICE CENTER AS COMPLETE. CORBY VARNESSE SECONDED. MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

- b. Tenino – The Facilities Committee shared that there is an issue with the City of Tenino and they had asked the Library Director to draft a letter to be submitted by the Board of Trustees. Trustee Hirschi noted that they are not cleaning the library and it is causing a health and safety issue for staff. The Board had received documentation and previous correspondence from the Library Director and legal counsel for review. The next step will be mediation with the City. Cheryl noted that the custodian from the Service Center was assigned to clean the Tenino Library for the month of December and will continue until there is a resolution.

An invoice for the custodian's time, travel time, and supplies will also be included with the letter to the City of Tenino. President Wheeler read the letter to the Board and audience.

Next, there was a lengthy discussion about the roles and responsibilities of the City and a question from the Board if the community understands that this is not a TRL responsibility. The trustees noted that they would like to have a more aggressive approach and for staff to keep documenting the issues. Library staff have been very patient and have cleaned themselves which should not be happening. Trustee Varness stressed that this is not about closing the library, stating that this is not what this is about, but there is a contractual obligation with TRL as well as health and safety issues for staff and patrons. Trustee Varness thanked the staff at the Tenino Library for their patience. Trustee Hirschi agreed, stating that we have a responsibility to look out for the employees just as we look out for our patrons and if have to go to mediation, we have to go to mediation. Trustee Hall made the following motion:

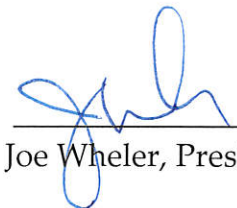
19-03 – BOB HALL MADE A MOTION TO HAVE THE BOARD SIGN THE LETTER TO THE CITY OF TENINO. BRIAN ZYLSTRA SECONDED. MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

- c. Budget – Eric stated that this was informational or as an item for discussion. He would like to know what the trustees budget priorities are for this year and in 2020, and to start the conversations about where we are going. Trustee Hall stated that he wants to as little as possible to use our fund balance to cover expenses. Eric also mentioned that he would like to talk to the Board about clarifying/updating the names of the special purpose funds and possibly combining them into one fund as well as changing the Fund Balance policy to reflect a less conservative strategy. Eric noted that these are just a couple of things to consider and this would not be a way to kick the can down the road, we need to talk about this and what our goals for the future are. We can't keep saying this is how it has always been. Trustee Hall stated that he has a concern from a policy perspective that bleeds over into several areas – facilities/budget/policy. The rural areas against the urban. In his opinion, it would be bad to go in

that direction and thinks it would do us in. He agrees that throughout this year, we need to think about this. Can we look at this as a whole? Is there some way?

Eric agreed that those are very valid points. Noting that his job is to look at different things. Communities all want things. Moclips, Glenoma, Mineral, how do we get to these areas that are not getting the services they are paying for? Lacey and Olympia have grown and continue to grow and they want new libraries, when you look at the money, how do we reach more people? Circulation statistics are going down. Trustee Hirschi stated she would not like us pitting one against each other and that it is unfair. We should talk about our policy and a possible levy lid lift to see if we could do one. Cheryl noted that if we did the full .50 we would get an additional \$6 million dollars but these are big topics and we need to talk about all of these items.

8. With no further items for discussion, President Wheeler adjourned the meeting at 7:03 p.m.



Joe Wheeler, President



Cheryl Heywood, Secretary