

Wabasha Library Board of Trustees
Minutes of Special Meeting Held March 17, 2010

The meeting was called to order by President Kennebeck at 3:59 p.m.

Present: Trustees Carrels, Gillespie, Gosse, Heimstead, Kennebeck, and Tentis and Library Director McCaughtry and Library Staff Member Bev Hall

Absent: Borg

Gosse moved approval for payment of items funded by the Arts and Culture grant monies, as presented by McCaughtry. Tentis seconded, and the motion was carried.

Gillespie moved approval for payment of a modified SELCO invoice, which differed from the one approved at the March 8, 2010 meeting because a pending credit was included. Carrels seconded, and the motion was carried.

Special Business:

City cuts to Library budget and reductions in staffing expenditures – McCaughtry presented a proposed plan that would reduce expenditures by \$10,536, the amount that the City will be cutting from the Library budget. The plan included

- 10 days of Director furlough
- 10 days of Library closing on the furlough days, reducing part-time staff costs
- 29 days of Friday closing, reducing part-time staff costs
- an approximately \$1500 reduction in utilities costs

Trustees first discussed how the public would be informed about the closures, and how their comments and questions would be handled. Trustees concluded that these things should be directed to Library Board of Trustee members, in writing.

Trustees next discussed the schedule for implementing the Friday closures. They concurred with McCaughtry's plan that the change would begin as of April 1 and that Friday hours would be reinstated for the months of June and July, during the Summer Reading Program.

Other alternatives, such as reducing the hours on other days in order to keep the Library open on Fridays, were briefly considered. Also discussed was the idea that the proposed plan could be approved at this point, and the effects and public reaction could be monitored to see whether other options might need to be considered as time goes on.

The utilities costs were also briefly discussed. Heimstead moved that the proposed plan be approved, and Tentis seconded the motion. Gillespie noted that the savings would need to be made within 9 months, not the entire 12 months of the 2010 budget. He also asked what is known about potential reductions of county funding. McCaughtry will contact Ann Hutton for information on this. The motion to approve the proposed plan was passed unanimously.

Gosse moved to adjourn. Gillespie seconded, and the motion was carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Lenief Heimstead, Secretary