

**Amery Public Library Board of Trustees  
January 20, 2020**

Wendy Dietrich called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Also present were Jennifer Tyman, Betty Tomasek, Sarah Flanum, Jen Lee, Annie Braaten, Greta McCarty and Director Amy Stormberg. Kyrsten Huges was not present. A **Quorum** was established. The **motion (bt) to approve the agenda and was seconded (sf) and approved**. It was certified that the meeting was in compliance with the open meeting law.

**Public Comments**

None at this time.

**Friends Report**

Wendy reported that the friends met on, today, January 20<sup>th</sup>. They are doing a lot of planning for their membership event "Love Your Library" on February 1<sup>st</sup>. They are also planning for an author event coming up as well. The big item was the move of the library. John Thompson shared his perspective and will field their questions. They would like the board members present to help answer questions at the "Love Your Library" event.

**Approval of Minutes: December**

The December minutes were reviewed. **A motion was made (bt) and seconded (jl) to approve the Secretary's Report. Motion carried.**

**Library Director Report**

See attached. Amy and Wendy were on the local radio broadcast. The report shows all the events we have each month. There was a question on one of the items where police were called. Amy had stated that a student that was at the library for tutoring got out of control and police were called to help subdue the situation.

**Personnel Report**

We rescheduled the meeting to February 17, 2020 at 5:30.

**Financial Report**

Everything is right on track. **A motion was made (bt) and seconded (gm) to approve the financial report. Motion carried.**

**Now Account for Audit:**

The accounts were reviewed (see attached). **A motion was made (sf) and seconded (bt) to approve the Now Account. Motion carried.**

**Approve Vouchers**

The bills were reviewed. **A motion (sf) was made and seconded (bt) to approve vouchers for payment. Motion carried.**

**Old Business**

**1. Budget Revision:**

Amy made an error on the budget and has asked to leave the budget as it is because we will need to use that money at a later date when one of our employees goes on maternity leave.

**New Business**

**1. Salaried Staff-Holiday Paid Time Off-Revision:**

Amy is proposing that any salaried staff member be allowed to take another day off in the pay period if they work the scheduled holiday. **A motion (sf) and seconded (bt) was made to approve the full-time staff to take another day off during the pay period if they work the holiday. Motion carried.**

## **2. Board Meeting Time Change:**

We need to change our start time of our board meetings to make them accessible to the public. **A motion (jt) and seconded (gm) was made to Change the meeting start time to 6:00 effective February 17<sup>th</sup>. Motion carried.**

## **3. Library Changes-Discussion with John Thompson (IFLS Director):**

John Thompson from IFLS is here to help us navigate the upcoming library changes. Amy, Wendy and John had asked to take a longer tour of the bank on Wednesday (with any Board Members wishing to join them) but have decided to wait on that tour. The Long Range Planning Committee will plan a new date for a meeting via e-mail.

The city stated that it has purchased the Bremer Bank building- the statute allows the city to buy or lease the space for the library. The board has custodial ability to make changes to the space.

The city has requested some architectural firms to assess the building and will have response back from them by the end of the week and have stated that they will hit the ground running with approval at the February City council meeting.

They will look at the condition of the building and then they will be looking at how that space will be used as the library space.

There are things to be concerned about. There is a server room that the bank will need to use the whole time that they still occupy the space. The elevator is on one side and the ramp is on the other side of the building. Some other things that will need to be addressed are how the lighting flows. John's hope is that the library board, in some capacity, will be part of the conversation in the change of the space.

Moving forward we will need to convey what the library functions are and we will need to have conversations with the city. All the design elements are important and need to be considered before all the plans are done.

John suggested we host a session to get community feedback in the next two to three weeks. What is permanent in the move and what will be temporary.

Jen Lee asked if he has had experience with shared spaces; John stated that yes, he has, in Baldwin, Clear Lake and Luck.

What we need to look at with the new space is if it is functional, feasible, and efficient.

Palmer Sondreal-a resident of Amery, former news paper editor, Amery Area Historical Society President asked Sarah if they had an engineer look at the building and he feels the city council is working backwards. He feels it is a blindside to the library and the community. He asked if the check has been written for the building or if it was a purchase agreement.

Debbie Richard spoke and she stated she is angry about the announcement. She feels that there is no way the new facility is going to be like the current library. She doesn't think it is right that the library or community did not have a say in this.

It was asked how much the city will be getting back and Sarah commented that she isn't at liberty to discuss that now.

The library has been compiling a list of concerns. The library will be working together with the city. The board will need to come together and have a unified statement for the library.

With the level of unknown information, we need to make sure that the investment (to the library) and the community are all on the same page. Whatever happens we need to convey the vision to the community.

Jen Lee asked; "What if the city says yes, we are going to move forward with the move and we as a library say no" John stated we need to go with it. If it is not good he will tell us. We can go back and see what we can do.

Sarah stated everyone has only known that building as a bank, one needs to look outside the box and looking at the building in an architecturally view there is a lot of unused space there.

Wendy said the mayor has been in contact with the library. She said that he has every intention of inviting us in when the planning starts.

A question was asked of when the discussion of purchasing the Bremer Bank building had begun. It was also brought up about open vs. closed session and when going into closed session it needs to list the law and a summary about what the discussion will be. There may be some legitimate concern on the city's process.

Betty has stated it is difficult to get her feeling expressed properly right now. John suggested that the city, the mayor and the library board plan a meeting together.

It was asked if the study that is being done is specifically for everything or just the library? John stated it all depends on the firm's capabilities.

Of the 3 firms at least 2 of them have done library projects with libraries in the area. The last one has had assistance from an outside firm.

Why can't the library stay here? It was a financial decision that the city can't afford.

Sandy Olson stated that she lives at Evergreen Village and it is handy to have the tunnel system. A lot of people that live in the retirement community would miss the proximity to them. There is also easy access for wheel chairs and the drop box is also in a convenient place for everyone.

We will request a meeting with the finance meeting for January 28<sup>th</sup> at 5:00. We will also include the Friends of the Library and the Historical Society.

#### **Next Meeting**

The Board will meet for its next regular meeting on Monday February 17, 2020 at 6:00 PM.

#### **Adjournment**

**A motion to adjourn was made (sf) and seconded (jl) Motion carried.**