

Thorntown Public Library Board of Trustees
August 14, 2023
Minutes

President Chuck Behrens called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Also present were Jennifer Bopp, Barb Hillger, Judy Johnson, Barney Lewis, Director Christine Sterle, Treasurer Barbara Darnell, and board assistant Kathy Bowen.

Judy moved to approve the agenda with a second by Barney. Vote 5-0

Jennifer moved to approve the July Secretary's report with additional claims presented by Barbara Darnell. Barney seconded. Vote 5-0

Barbara presented the Monthly Financial Report. Receipts into the operating fund for July, 2023 were \$26,532.08. Operating fund disbursements totaled \$61,275.89. July's ending cash balance was \$1,147,062.64 with investments of \$275,238.62. Total Cash/Investments were \$1,422,351.26.

Barney moved to approve the Register of Claims with a second by Judy. Vote 5-0

With no public present the board proceeded to Reports.

Thorntown Heritage Museum – There has been no progress on the barn. The Cornelius Westfall family had a reunion and about 20 family members visited the museum. July Euchre Night had 13 attendees and \$305 was raised for New Beginnings Food Pantry. The Ice Cream Social on Saturday, August 5 was moved to the basement of the Christian Church due to rain but was still enjoyed by approximately 50 people. \$282 were raised in donations. Sandy is working to get the storage room organized before her last day of employment. During the SCHS board meetings, she has let the board members know they need to consider storage areas as they are making decisions on the renovations of the barn. The museum is becoming full and extra consideration may need to be given as donations are accepted. Future storage can easily become an issue.

Old Business:

2024 Budgets – 2024 budget is under 4% MLGQ. After discussion Jennifer moved to approve advertising the budget as proposed: Operating \$851,848; Rainy Day \$125,000. Total 2024 Budgets: \$976,848. Barb seconded. Vote 5-0

New Business:

E-Rate Commitment – Barney moved to resolve to commit to joining the Indiana State Library E-Rate Consortium with a second by Jennifer. Vote 5-0

Director's Report

Christine shared an update on the bond project. The library has been asked by the County Council president to explore alternative funding for the \$640,000 project. Some suggestions were ARPA funds from the county commissioners for the roof and DNR to refinish the floors. Christine is following up on suggestions made, though bond counsel commented that these are not typically used to fund large-scale projects progress. The bond teams recommends we pause until budgets are set, then attempt to move forward with the project (or part of project) in the fall/spring, with plan to issue bonds in 2025.

Personnel updates:

Sandy's last day is September 5. Christine is posting for a Full Time Local History Librarian & Museum Coordinator at \$15 per hour, open until filled.

Children's Librarian Barb Lebo is confident that current youth staff can manage the department, so we will not post for an assistant children's librarian at this time.

Christine share updates about HVAC repairs, preparations for the April 8, 2024 solar eclipse, the Indiana Digital Equity plan, and upcoming library events

Barb motioned to adjourn the August board meeting with a second by Jennifer at 7:15 p.m. Vote 5-0.

Christine Sterle, Secretary *Pro tem*