

AKRON-SUMMIT COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
JUNE 30, 2022

Bernie Rochford called the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Akron-Summit County Public Library to order at 4:05 pm in the Community Room of the Springfield-Lakemore Branch Library. The following members of the Board answered the roll call: James Casey, Jill Darlington, Angela Neeley, William Rich, Bernie Rochford, and Ray Weber. John Frola was absent. Present from Library staff were Pamela Hickson-Stevenson, Michelle Scarpitti, Carrie Burrier, Andrea Cowgar, Carla Davis, Melani Fragge, Cheryl Engel, Pat Manning, Ryan McCoy, Heather Otto, Pam Plumley, Andrew Rockey, Peter Schantz, Valerie Sherman, and Barb White. Christina Balliet and Joe Fantozzi from the Summit County Fiscal Office were also present.

Ms. Hickson-Stevenson announced that the presentation by representatives of the Summit County Fiscal Office would be the first item for the meeting.

Christina Balliet and Joe Fantozzi introduced themselves. Ms. Balliet explained that the County Fiscal Office consists of several divisions and is responsible for collecting real estate taxes on all properties in Summit County. She next explained the differences between renewal, replacement, and permanent improvement levies. A renewal of a property tax levy extends the term and purpose of an expiring levy while continuing to use the original property valuations at the time of approval. Renewal mills have a reduction factor applied annually in order to raise the same amount of funding as in the original year of passage. Individual taxpayer rates generally will remain the same but may increase.

SUMMIT COUNTY  
FISCAL OFFICE TAX  
PRESENTATION

A replacement of a property tax levy extends the term and purpose of an expiring levy but generates more money for the tax-supported entity because it replaces the previous levy, which was collected on old property values. It raises the taxes to reflect the current market value of the property. Additionally, replacement levies no longer offer the non-business or owner occupancy credit, formerly known as the 2.5% supplemental rollback.

A permanent improvement levy is similar to an additional or new operating levy and to a replacement levy. The Library Board is required to pass a Resolution of Necessity and submit it to the Fiscal Office. The Fiscal Office staff would calculate the amount of revenue that the levy would generate and then send a Fiscal Officer's Certificate back to the Library. If the Library Board would decide to proceed, a Resolution to Proceed would be required.

Ms. Balliet was not aware of any minimum millage requirement. She stated the millage cannot be split between a permanent improvement and operating needs. The Library must request approval of two separate levies.

Mr. Fantozzi stated that Governor DeWine recently signed House Bill 140 into law. It will go into effect for the May 5, 2023, election. The legislation requires property tax election notices and ballot language to convey a property tax levy's rate in dollars for each \$100,000 of the county auditor's appraised value (i.e., true value), instead of in dollars for each \$100 of taxable value. In Ohio, taxable value is 35% of appraised or true value, and many properties have a value of less than \$100,000. For a levy that is a renewal, decrease, increase, or expansion of an existing tax, the levy's effective tax rate is to be expressed both as the voted rate on taxable value and as the estimated effective rate on appraised value of residential/agricultural property only.

The ballot language does not take into consideration the Homestead Exemption or other types of reduction factors. The legislation also requires most election notices and ballot language to display the estimated amount the levy would collect annually. Additionally, it prohibits any portion of a property tax question from being printed on the ballot in boldface type or with differing font size, with some exceptions.

Mr. Fantozzi observed that organizations seeking levies would need to educate voters on the difference between how property taxes are levied versus paid. Voters will need to be educated so they are not shocked by what looks like a larger amount. The ballot also will be a new look to voters. Campaign literature should include explanations.

Mr. Rich moved, seconded by Ms. Darlington, to adopt the June 30, 2022, agenda. Ms. Hickson-Stevenson noted there would not be a request for disposal of surplus property. The motion was adopted without dissent.

22-64  
AGENDA

Mr. Rich moved, seconded by Ms. Neeley, to adopt the minutes of the May 26, 2022, regular Board meeting. The motion was adopted without dissent.

22-65  
MAY BOARD  
MINUTES

Mr. Rochford stated that he appreciated the opportunity to come to the Springfield-Lakemore Branch and thanked the manager for hosting. He also reported that he attended the Akron Beacon Journal Mobile Newsroom Kickoff at the Odom Boulevard Branch Library.

PRESIDENT'S  
REMARKS

Michelle Scarpitti, Fiscal Officer, presented the executive summary and financial report for May 2022. The primary source of revenue was the Real Estate Homestead and Rollback settlement. The Library paid the Peninsula Library the portion of the real estate settlement, which the Library collects on its behalf because its residents are included in the taxing district.

MAY 2022  
FINANCIAL REPORT

Mr. Rich moved, seconded by Ms. Neeley, to adopt the financial report for May 2022. The motion was adopted without dissent.

22-66  
ADOPTION OF  
FINANCIAL REPORT

Ms. Scarpitti presented the donor/gift list for May 2022. The Library received \$100 in monetary donations and approximately one and a half pages of other donations.

DONOR/GIFT LIST

Mr. Weber moved, seconded by Mr. Rich, acceptance of the donations and gifts with great appreciation. The motion was adopted without dissent.

22-67  
DONATIONS/  
GIFTS

Ms. Scarpitti presented the investment report for May 2022. The interest earned totaled \$8,691.31, with approximately 78% of it credited to the General Fund.

INVESTMENT  
REPORT

[The investment reports are appended to the minutes.]

Ms. Scarpitti then requested the Board approve the 2022 Alternative Tax Budget document, which demonstrates the Library needs the County to assess the levy.

Mr. Rich moved, seconded by Mr. Casey, to approve the resolution. The motion was adopted without dissent.

22-68  
2022 ALTERNATIVE  
TAX BUDGET

Heather Otto, Human Resources Director, presented the personnel report for June 2022 and stated there were no changes since the report was submitted. She stated there were no retirees to report this month.

PERSONNEL REPORT

**AKRON-SUMMIT COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
**Personnel Report – June 2022**

**RESIGNATIONS:**

<b><u>Employee</u></b>	<b><u>Classification</u></b>	<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Agency</u></b>
Calabrese, Grace	Student Assistant	05/14/2022	Nordonia Hills
DeGross, Katherine	Student Assistant	05/25/2022	BG&S
Fallon, Landon	Student Assistant	06/17/2022	Kenmore
Green, Benjamin	Librarian (Intermediate/Teen)	07/15/2022	Odom
James, Jessica	Public Service Assistant II	06/25/2022	Springfield/Lakemore
Lucey, Brian	APD/Security	06/10/2022	APD/Security
Montgomery, Jack	Security Officer	06/09/2022	Security
Neal, Rozlyn	Student Assistant	07/09/2022	Culture & AV
Walker, Melissa	Substitute Public Service Assistant I	05/09/2022	Subs
West, Aiden	Student Assistant	05/24/2022	Culture & AV
West, Maya	Student Assistant	06/16/2022	Highland Square

**SELECTIONS:**

Beasley, Brooke	Student Assistant	06/06/2022	Culture & AV
Davis, Phoenix	Student Assistant	06/20/2022	Children's & Teen
Harbeson, Elijah	Student Assistant	05/09/2022	BG&S
Holzappel, Amelia	Student Assistant	05/23/2022	Fairlawn-Bath
Howell III, Michael	Student Assistant	06/06/2022	Nordonia Hills
Jones, Tyler	Substitute Public Service Assistant II	06/13/2022	Subs
Manns, Olivia	Student Assistant	06/20/2022	Odom
Massey, D'Chante	Student Assistant	06/20/2022	Odom
Mihailovich, Caryle (Alexander)	Public Service Assistant II	06/06/2022	BG&S
Olman, Alanna	Student Assistant	06/20/2022	Richfield
Ridgeway, Ava	Student Assistant	06/20/2022	Culture & AV
Thammachack, Razeen	Student Assistant	05/23/2022	Culture & AV

**CHANGE OF CLASSIFICATION (STATUS)/TRANSFER:**

Finley, John	Events Assistant		Main Events
	Supervisor II (Events)	06/27/2022	Main Events

Green, Benjamin	Public Service Assistant III Librarian (Intermediate/Teen)	05/14/2022	Odom Odom
Pisani, Chelsea	Public Service Assistant III Librarian (Early Childhood)	05/14/2022	Maple Valley Maple Valley

**NUMBER OF STAFF MEMBERS**

	06.16.09	06.09.10	06.17.19	06.19.20	06.15.21	06.22.22
Full-Time Staff:	291	270	277	148	249	257
80 Hrs. Exempt:				47	44	42
75 Hrs. Non-Exempt:				101	205	215
Part-time/Job-Share Staff:	68	54	46	0	38	47
Student Assistants:	86	73	78	0	48	65
Total number of Staff:	445	397	401	*148	335	369
Full-Time Equivalents	339	307	302	*NOTE: All other staff furloughed	273	291

**NOTE:** These numbers cannot be compared from month to month for the following reason: the numbers may not reflect additions and deletions to the payroll system as the changes are made immediately prior to or after the date the personnel action is effective.

Mr. Rich moved, seconded by Ms. Neeley, to adopt the June personnel report as received. The motion was adopted without dissent. 22-69  
PERSONNEL REPORT

Ms. Hickson-Stevenson updated the Board on a situation regarding a father’s complaint about a story from one of the Short Story Dispensers. The father contacted a local station, and the story aired during a 6:00 pm news broadcast. The father did not contact the Library to discuss his concerns. She took immediate corrective action with the company that provides the content. A board member asked if a follow-up response to the news station was needed. Ms. Hickson-Stevenson responded that the television news cycle is short, and she did not want to revive the story. EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR’S REPORT

She congratulated Patrick Manning, Neighborhood Services Manager, who was elected recently to serve on the Board of Trustees for the Northeast Ohio Regional Library System (NEO-RLS). He specifically will represent Zone 1 libraries that have total operating revenue of \$17.5M and up. NORTHEAST OHIO  
REGIONAL LIBRARY  
SYSTEM

Ms. Hickson-Stevenson read the report of the Buildings & Grounds Committee meeting.

*AKRON-SUMMIT COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
REPORT OF BUILDINGS & GROUNDS COMMITTEE MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29, 2022 4:00 PM*

**BUILDINGS &  
GROUNDS  
COMMITTEE REPORT**

*The Buildings and Grounds Committee met in the Lolita K. Adair Board Room on Wednesday, June 29, 2022. Committee Chair Ray Weber called the meeting to order at 4:09 pm, with committee members Jim Casey, Jill Darlington, and Bernie Rochford attending. Also attending were staff members Pam Hickson-Stevenson, Michelle Scarpitti, Peter Schantz, and Barb White.*

*Mr. Casey moved, seconded by Mr. Rochford, to adopt the agenda. The motion was adopted without dissent.*

*Peter Schantz presented the results of the public bidding process for a new roof at the Nordonia Hills Branch Library. Three contractors submitted bids, which Michelle Scarpitti opened on June 21. Terik Roofing submitted both the lowest base bid and the lowest optional bid alternate for a combined total of \$1,215,853. The Library's roofing consultant, Construction Resources, Inc. (CRI), additionally recommended a construction contingency of \$40,000. Terik's bid is roughly 20% higher than the opinion of probable cost expressed by CRI. This likely is due to the volatile construction market, which is affected by high demand, labor shortages, record high fuel prices, and supply chain disruptions. Mr. Schantz commented that the high cost of the project could be a reason to postpone it. He believes an investment of \$20,000 to \$25,000 for remediation work will ensure that the roof remains watertight for a few years. In response to a question, he stated that the majority of the work would stay in place when a larger roofing project is scheduled at the branch. Committee members discussed the options and concluded that it would be better to engage in the less expensive remediation work than to go forward with the roof replacement.*

*Mr. Rochford moved to recommend to the Board turning down the bid proposals and postponing the roof replacement project at the Nordonia Hills Branch in favor of the remediation work. The motion was adopted without dissent, and this now comes as a recommendation to the Board.*

With no questions or discussion, the Committee's recommendation to turn down the bid proposals and postpone the roof replacement at the Nordonia Hills Branch was adopted without dissent.

22-70  
REMEDICATION OF  
ROOF AT NORDONIA  
HILLS BRANCH

*Mr. Schantz next presented the results of the public bidding process for major work on the parking lot at the Odom Boulevard Branch Library and minor repairs to the North Hill Branch Library parking lot. Two contractors submitted bids, which Michelle Scarpitti opened on June 23. Perrin Asphalt and Concrete submitted the low bid of \$464,435. The bid is 3.3% higher than the opinion of probable cost expressed by the Library's paving consultant, Environmental Design Group (EDG). Mr. Schantz recommended acceptance of the bid along with a \$10,000 contingency for a total project cost of \$474,435.*

*Mr. Casey moved to recommend that the Board accept the low bid of \$464,435 from Perrin Asphalt and Concrete and to approve a \$10,000 contingency for a total project cost of \$474,435. This now comes as a recommendation to the Board.*

With no questions or discussion, the Committee's recommendation to accept the low bid of \$464,435 from Perrin Asphalt and Concrete and to approve a \$10,000 contingency for a total project cost of \$474,435 was adopted without dissent.

22-71  
PARKING LOT WORK  
AT ODOM  
BOULEVARD  
BRANCH

*Mr. Schantz provided an overview of the Facilities Assessment that he and other members of the Facilities Services staff prepared. The goal of this work was to develop a projection of capital funding needs to address deferred and delayed maintenance, the natural aging of facilities systems, and the safety and comfort of Library customers and staff. He pointed out that there are fourteen buildings in the Library system that were built within five years of each other and that there is a critical mass of repair and replacement work that is developing. Many different aspects of the facilities are starting to fail.*

*The total amount of money needed over the next twelve years is approximately \$60,000,000. Mr. Schantz explained the reasons for the increase of approximately \$20,000,000 over the dollar amount he provided more than six months ago. About \$10,000,000 of the increase is due to roof costs, about \$9,000,000 is due to inflation (factored in at 3% per year), and about \$6,000,000 is due to plans for reprogramming Main Library.*

*Committee members discussed a number of factors involved in obtaining the needed funds, including going on the ballot, timing of the request to the public for the funds, inflation, and strategies for communicating the need to the public.*

*Having reached the end of the agenda, Mr. Weber declared the meeting adjourned at 5:13 pm.*

*Pam Hickson-Stevenson  
Executive Director*

There was no new business.

Mr. Rochford stated there were no requests for public participation.

Ms. Hickson-Stevenson introduced Ms. Melani Fragge, the Springfield-Lakemore Branch Library Manager. Ms. Fragge said that activity has picked up due to the summer reading program. Because of the size of the crowds, they are holding events at the high school. The Friends Group has been holding book sales in coordination with activities in the area and has seen the largest revenue earned. Upcoming events include Rock the Dock, a princess tea party and a food bash. They are still doing some virtual programming. Mr. Rich congratulated the staff on their great work.

There were no comments for the good of the order.

With no further business and no objections, Mr. Rochford adjourned the meeting at 5:10 pm.

NEW BUSINESS

PUBLIC  
PARTICIPATION

ADMINISTRATIVE  
TEAM REPORT

FOR THE GOOD OF  
THE ORDER

ADJOURNMENT

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President

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Secretary