

AKRON-SUMMIT COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
FEBRUARY 3, 2024

President Angela Neeley called the special meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Akron-Summit County Public Library to order at 9:07 am in the Lolita K. Adair Board Room of Main Library. The following members of the Board answered the roll call: James Casey, Joseph Ferrise, John Frola, Angela Neeley, William Rich, Bernie Rochford, and Ray Weber. Present from the Library staff were Pam Hickson-Stevenson, Michelle Scarpitti, Michelle Alleman, and Peter Schantz.

Mr. Rochford moved, seconded by Mr. Frola, to adopt the agenda as distributed. The motion was adopted without dissent.

24-19
AGENDA APPROVED

Peter Schantz, Facilities Director, presented an overview of the revisions the Facilities staff made to the systemwide facilities assessment he first developed two years ago. The total cost of the capital spending plan has increased to approximately \$71.3 million. He stated that the increased cost is due, in part, to inflation. Additionally, the most recent cost estimates were based primarily on actual project proposals. Finally, the increased cost also is due to the additions of two new cost categories, inclusion of elevator modernizations at Main Library, increased allowances for building refresh projects, and inclusion of fees for design consultants. He highlighted the plan to fund some capital projects from the general operating revenue and discussed a projection of the funds that would be needed from a future ballot issue. The Library would need additional revenue for capital expenditures and for programmatic improvements to Main Library and the Branches. He stated these improvements are necessary to serve effectively the Library's current customers and to provide the flexible spaces and updated technology to address emerging future needs. He also emphasized a design professional must be engaged to properly identify programmatic needs and a cost estimate to achieve those improvements.

UPDATED
FACILITIES
ASSESSMENT AND
CAPITAL SPENDING
PLAN

Michelle Scarpitti, Fiscal Officer, reviewed terminology related to Library finances. She then presented information on assumptions she used in developing a financial forecast. She reviewed Library revenue and expenses for the years 2011 through 2023, along with Fund 401 Building & Repair activity for the years 2019 through 2023. She next presented a forecast of revenue and expenses in the General Fund for the years 2024 through 2032 and in the Fund 401 Building & Repair for the years 2024 through 2028. She then discussed a worksheet, provided by the Summit County Fiscal Office, which she completed to calculate revenue produced by additional and replacement levies. She estimated that if the Library

FINANCIAL
FORECASTING

were to seek enough revenue from a single ballot issue in 2027 to support the capital needs, the necessary millage rate would be approximately 2.9.

Pam Hickson-Stevenson, Executive Director, asked the Board to discuss options for seeking the funds needed for the capital plan. The Library Trustees discussed going on the ballot for a single issue in 2027, when the Library's current property tax operating levy of 1.9 mills expires. They also discussed asking the voters to approve funding for capital needs in a separate issue earlier than 2027. They concluded their discussion by directing Ms. Hickson-Stevenson and Ms. Scarpitti to research a separate issue that would be presented to voters earlier than 2027.

OPTIONS

There was no public participation.

PUBLIC
PARTICIPATION

Having reached the end of the agenda, Ms. Neeley declared the meeting adjourned at 12:24 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

President

Secretary