

MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2023 – 1:00 PM
OCONTO COUNTY LIBRARY PLANNING COMMITTEE
FARNSWORTH PUBLIC LIBRARY 715 MAIN STREET, OCONTO, WI 54153
www.co.oconto.wi.us
(Draft minutes, not approved by Committee)

COMMITTEE PRESENT: Debra Schroeder, Farnsworth Public Library Rep; Judy Patenaude, Lena Public Library Rep; Dawn Byars, Gillett Public Library Rep; Kathleen Marsh, Lakes Country Library Rep; Susan Mogged, Oconto Falls Library Rep; Joan Denis, Nicolet Federated Library Systems Board Rep; Al Sleeter, Administration Committee Rep; David Parmentier, County Board Supervisor Rep; LoAnn Elbe, Suring Library Rep; Vicki Gooding, Library Services Board Rep

COMMITTEE ABSENT: Chris Augustine, County Board Supervisor Rep

OTHERS PRESENT: Erik Pritzl, County Administrator; Kim Pytleski, County Clerk; Amy Peterson, Farnsworth Public Library; Katie Essermann, Lakes Country Library; Lori Repinski, Lakes Public Library; Rachel Pascoe, Oconto Falls Library; April De La Ruelle, Lena Public Library; Ben Pytleski, Lena Public Library; Tom Bitters, County Board Supervisor District 16; Pat Scanlan, County Board Supervisor District 11; Jean Grosse, Candie Lehto, Bonnie Hearley, Hannah Zima, Connie Meyer

1. Call to Order & Introductions

Schroeder called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

2.1. Change of Sequence – None.

2.2. Removal of Items – None.

Motion by Patenaude/Parmentier to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was voted on and carried.

3. Communications – None.

4. Approval of Previous Meeting Proceedings

Motion by Sleeter/Byars to approve the August 23, 2023 minutes/proceedings. The motion was voted on and carried.

5. Discuss Library Structure Options

Erik Pritzl, County Administrator, reviewed pro/cons of different structure options, how Friends of the Library groups could impact funding sources, change in terminology from unserved to non-represented as all municipalities are receiving library services, management structures (Director vs Branch Manager), how the expansion of library agreements and service population could affect library directors, if the state will grandfather current directors, how changes are made to joint agreements (avoiding library hopping), Discussion followed.

Pytleski reviewed the math for options 5.1 – 5.4 below. Discussion followed.

5.1. County creates a consolidated system with a new branch for unserved municipalities only

5.2. County creates a consolidated system with unserved municipalities and acquires an existing branch(s)

5.3. Full consolidation model (at current funding levels)

5.4. Joint libraries across the county (at current funding levels)

Committee asked for information from counties that have made changes to their library structures.

6. Identify Future Agenda Items

- County creates a full consolidated system taxed outside the levy limit.
- Create new joint agreements with unrepresented municipalities; Little Suamico and Chase remain unrepresented.
- Create new joint agreements with unrepresented municipalities; Little Suamico creates a new library and Chase remains unrepresented.

- Create new joint agreements with unrepresented municipalities; Little Suamico and Chase remain unrepresented and contribution adjustments for those currently in agreements that have not seen an increase in recent years.

7. Announcements/General Information (No action to be taken) – None.

8. Select a Date/Location for the Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Wednesday, November 15, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. at the Oconto Falls Community Library 251 North Main Street, Oconto Falls, WI 54154.

9. Adjournment

Motion by Patenaude/Parmentier to adjourn at 3:20 p.m. The motion was voted on and carried.

Kim Pytleski, Recorder

kp/Date Posted: ~~10/20/2023~~ 11/13/2023