

## **Minutes of the SCHSFLA Board of Trustees Meeting on February 24, 2025**

The meeting was held at the Montrose Branch Library

Be it know that reporters from WVIA and WBRE news were in attendance

**Call to Order:** 6:02 pm by President Will Squier.

**Board Members in attendance:** Aaron Boyce, Craig Benson, Dawn Augenti, Eric Powers, Fred Cicloni, Ginny Lewis, Lorraine Chidester, Steve Hinds

Absent: Angie Zick, Eileen Baesler

**Approval of Minutes;** Motion to accept the minutes of the January 27, 2025 board meeting.

Any discussion? Eric Powers wished to amend the January minutes to reflect the new Board members Ginny Hollister, Steve Hinds, Aaron Boyce and Eric Powers be marked as abstaining from the approval of the December Minutes

Steve Hinds 1<sup>st</sup>, Craig Benson 2<sup>nd</sup>.

All in favor Boyce, Benson, Augenti, Powers, Cicloni, Lewis, Chidester, Hinds, Squier.  
Opposed; None

### **Approval of Branch Reports:**

Motion to approve branch reports: 1st - Cicloni, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Craig Benson

All in favor: Boyce, Benson, Augenti, Powers, Cicloni, Lewis, Chidester, Hinds, Squier  
Opposed; None

### **Treasurer's Report: Lorraine Chidester** (see attached report)

Motion to accept the Treasurer Report. 1<sup>st</sup> – Dawn Augenti; 2<sup>nd</sup> – Steve Hinds  
Approved; Squier, Hinds, Chidester, Lewis, Cicloni, Powers, Augenti, Benson, Boyce  
Opposed; None

Discussion on energy prices and the possibility of shopping for the best prices

Discussion on Liability Insurance for the Association. it will be paid in 4 quarters at the amount of \$7,044.00 per quarter

Discussion on the postage meter for the Montrose Branch being no longer usable due to age.

A new postage meter and contract was entered into for 5 years with IMI. The new contract will save the Association money.

### **Review of the Historical Society projects:**

The front stair project has been reviewed by Benedict Construction with a favorable outcome.

Bonnie has applied for an EMHR grant in the amount of \$4,000.00 for the project and the terms require the work be started by June 2, 2025.

The Micro Fisch readers at the Historical Society are quite old and in need of repair.

The estimate for the repair of the newer one is approximately \$3,000-\$3,500. For the replacement of the camera. The older unit will need to be replaced with an approximate cost of \$12,000.00 for a new unit.

### **Fundraising:**

Katherine Cruz spoke about the online auction "Love Your Library". Opening date to be announced soon. Brief discussion regarding NEPA Gives fundraiser, and the Blueberry Festival had its first meeting on February 5, 2025 with all committee chairs and booth chairs. We need volunteers especially for the ice cream and buckle tent.

### **New Business:**

Lorraine Chidester will step down as an Officer in the position of Treasurer

Motion to approve: 1<sup>st</sup> – Ginny Lewis, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Craig Benson

Approved; Benson, Augenti, Powers, Ciclioni, Lewis, Hinds, Squier, Boyce

Opposed; None

**Open nominations for Treasurer;** 1<sup>st</sup> Eric Powers, 2<sup>nd</sup> Craig Benson.

Nominations were **Steve Hinds for the Officer position of Treasurer**

Closed nominations.

Motion to accept the nomination of Steve Hinds as Treasurer;

Approved; Augenti, Powers, Ciclioni, Lewis, Chidester, Squier, Boyce, Benson.

Opposed; None.

### **Old Business:**

Motion to resume consideration of the main motion that was laid on the table during the November 18, 2024 board meeting. Motion that was laid on the table reads as follows:

**“Motion to reinstate the former circulation policy and the former privacy and confidentiality of library records policy, that were both terminated and replaced**

**with the current policies at the September, 2023 Board Meeting, then further review these policies.”**

Motion to resume; 1<sup>st</sup> Fred Ciclioni, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lorraine Chidester

Approved; Boyce, Augenti, Powers, Ciclioni, Lewis, Chidester, Squier, Hinds, Benson

Opposed; None

Public discussion ensued regarding the language and the purpose of the change. District Consultant Michel Legate gave her opinion regarding reviewing the contract we have with Spark. After a lengthy and boisterous public discussion.

### **PUBLIC SPEAKERS:**

Taylor McKeeby: Questioned Title 24. Will Squier explained that Title 24 was vague in its list of Institutions that fall under its guidelines. He further referenced FERPA a Federal guideline. Several immediately interrupted and stated that that the library does not receive Federal funds.

Tom Follert : Questioned the need to go backward with the policy for minors.

Molly Riordan: Stated that when a child requests a library card the parent fills out the form and is informed that the parent is waiving their right to have access to the child's card.

Courtney Tyler: Asked if parents can log in to see if the child's account is available.

Nick Hawley: Filled out a Board Application and had never received a response. He further questioned if nominations were opened to the public.

President Will Squier took this time to explain the change:

The current policy states that if you sign for your child to have their own card, parents waive the right to see the card at any age,

Board Member Steve Hinds is concerned about making a contract with a minor child in which they can take the parent(s) off the card.

Vinnie Quattrocchi: Asked how many times the library has run into this problem

Kris Ely: States the current policy complies with the law and puts the staff in jeopardy by changing it. This change does not allow the child the right to privacy. Her son should have the right to privacy under Title 24.

Nick Hawley: further stated that he does not have a problem with the change himself.

Katie Upright; Asked about the possibility of two options old (A) and new (B).

Jenny Castrogiovanni: Questioned how many kids haven't read something the parents haven't approved of? She reminded the Board they represent the whole community.

Natalie Bowman: Stated she had sent a Board application and had never been contacted about it.

Nona Williams: Asked about the new policy and the procedure if the child wanted to take the parent off their card.

Tom Follert: Asked about the old policy option and the benefit if there is legal liability with it.

Michelle Legate, District Library Representative: Warned about putting the SPARK library contract in jeopardy with the discussed change to the policy.

Ginny Hollister Board Member asked to table further discussion to hold the policy change for one month

Judy McHale: Asked that the Board Agenda be publicized 48 hours prior to the meeting

Peggy Malooff : Asked about Membership and how to become a Board Member. The Board Application was read out loud to the audience.

Kris Ely: Asked if marketing material for the Blueberry Festival was removed regarding the Blueberry with multi colored shoes. She further warned about trying to outsmart the State.

She also questioned the conflict of interest with Lorraine Chidester as a Board Member and employee and demanded to know if she was being paid. Which is not ethical.

Vinnie Quattrocchi asked how a Board member was chosen. He was assured that no one is disqualified.

Board member Ginny Lewis made a motion to table the motion.

A motion was made by Ginny Lewis to table the Motion to reinstate. It was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Eric Powers.

Approved; Benson, Augenti, Powers, Cicloni, Lewis, Chidester, Squier

Opposed; Boyce, Hinds

### **Next Board meeting March 24, 2025 in Forest City**

**Motion to Adjourn the meeting:** 1<sup>st</sup>, Will Squier; 2<sup>nd</sup> Craig Benson

Approved; Chidester, Cicloni, Powers, Augenti, Benson, Lewis, Squier, Boyce, Hinds

Meeting adjourned approximately 7:30pm

**Finance:**

Attendance: Lorraine Chidester, Treasurer; Dawn Augenti

Reviewed January 2025 Month end reports.

Income received for the month included the following:

State Aid:	\$ 281,514
S. Stone Foundation:	139,584
Janny 3% Distribution	24,112
Donations	8,864
Investment Income (CD)	976
Book sales	693
General Operating Inc.	<u>472</u>
Total Income	\$456,215

Expenses for the month included the following:

Payroll Expense	\$ 48,313
Total Facilities & Equip.	13,103
Library Auto/Elec database	10,168
Memorials	4,808
Contract Services	4,556
Books	5,290
Postage & Advertising	459
BBF Fundraising Exp	<u>185</u>
	\$ 86,848

Based on last year's monthly expenses the biggest difference was due to an increase in energy prices in which energy was approximately 50% higher in 2025 than 2024. We may be able to shop our energy prices, particularly electric. Also, in 2024 we paid our liability insurance in full in 2024, this year we are making quarterly payments. Our library automation expense also increased in 2025.

Looking forward, we have expenses in February relating to our postage meter which had to be replaced immediately due to the changes to ensure the meter is IMI (Intelligent Mail Indicia) compliant with the USPS. We were able to replace the meter

with limited interruption of our books by mail service. We have a 5-year contract with Quadient. The new contract will save us approximately \$250 per year. Other expenses will include the renewal of our Quick Books contract service for our Desk Top version. Our regular book buy will be increasing so that we may meet our required 12% book purchase. Purchase is based on our annual expenses and may run about \$100,000. Our regular monthly expenses should remain the same, these are for our rents (Susquehanna \$365, Forest City \$750 and Book Storage \$200), heat, electricity, phone, sewer, water, trash and telephone.

Our Endowments in the Janney Montgomery Scott account are as follow:

	January, 31,2025	Qtr. End 12/31/2024
Lott	\$ 348,676	\$ 351,800
Post	448,469	452,062
McKeage	<u>334,188</u>	<u>326,090</u>
	\$1,131,333	\$1,129,952

January, 2025 SCHS&FLA received the annual 3% disbursement totaling \$24,112.

Fundraising efforts are in full swing and hopefully we will be able to get the library operating in the black.

We have Historical Society expenses in the foreseeable future pertaining to the front step project and the need to replace or repair the microfiche machine. Attached are some of Bonnie's projected expenses. Bonnie has filed for grants which help cover ever increasing expenses.