January 16, 2023 5:30 p.m.

Chairperson Gina Carroll called the meeting to order with Jane Ann Olson, Jeanne Cheek, Lisa Russel, Meagan Gomez, Tony Yates, Steve Tonsor, Melissa Hays, and Kathy Anderson representing the Friends of the Library present. Attending via zoom was Rachel Grimes of Little Dixie Libraries.

Kathy Anderson shared the Imagination Library Program currently serves 38 children of the Monroe City R-1 School District. The program provides children under six years of age with personal literature and opportunities to explore the world through it. Volunteers utilize donations toward the $25 annual expense per child. The Monroe City Library was invited to participate financially in this effort. The Board expressed appreciation for this program and would discuss participation later in the meeting.

Steve Tonsor read minutes of the November 14 meeting. Jane Ann Olson motioned, and Tony Yates seconded the minutes become record. All voting were in favor.

Jane Anne Olson presented October thru December financials and year-to-date numbers. Discussion followed regarding two months billing of elevator repair invoices. Mellissa Hays vowed to further study the library’s obligation. Tony Yates moved to approve the financials as presented. Jeanne Cheek seconded and the report was approved unanimously. Librarian, Melissa Hays noted that employee hourly wages for three employees in December would not meet state minimum wage standards in January. The board unanimously approved a $12 minimum wage retro to January 1, 2023. Discussion followed regarding lack of tenure consideration with the minimum wage. Steve Tonsor motioned that employees, excepting the librarian, receive an 85 cent per hour wage increase retro to January 1. Tony Yates seconded and motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Hays expressed enthusiasm with the support of Karen Seward and her efforts to upgrade services prior to her retirement. Due to recent acquisitions of materials few additions were necessary at this time. Mrs. Seward suggested an effort to paint one wall to enhance a children’s corner in the library. Dennis Carson of Carson Cabinets would be estimating the cost of repurposing book shelving currently on hand. Mrs. Hays planned to initiate bi-monthly visits to the Monroe City Manor on behalf of the library. Implementing a similar delivery might be offered to local day care services. In addition to the Second Saturday Reading Program she hoped to initiate a second monthly Saturday program soon. During the time frame of September 19 , 2022 thru January 12, 2023 the following utilization was recorded:

Patrons 678 Adult Fiction 440 Juvenile Fiction 106 Young Adult 10 Computer Use 110

Conference Room 16 persons Under Five 64 Adult Nonfiction 25 Juvenile nonfiction 64

Easy 437 Wifi Use 18 Copies 346

Mrs. Carroll highlighted ongoing efforts to merge with Little Dixie Libraries. Christopher Biennek agreed to represent Monroe City Library in this effort. City of Monroe City’s Attorney, John Russel, tentatively approved the measure. Monroe County Commissioners verbally approved the measure, pending proper documentation. Upon invitation, Rachel Grimes shared a Performer’s Grant previously written by Karen Seward was approved and could fund future performance activities in Monroe City. In addition she encouraged that an operational agreement be drafted well in advance of an October 1 merger. Grant opportunities are anticipated to expire without said agreement in place this spring. Mid-Continent of Kansas City, MO. Has offered to donate a truckload of reading materials to Little Dixie Libraries at the cost of fuel. Ms. Grimes invited the Monroe City Library to take advantage of this opportunity. The Monroe City Library Board approved.

Lisa Russel suggested expedited finalization of a lease agreement between the City of Monroe City and Little Dixie Libraries. Mrs. Russel suggested perhaps provisions be included limiting access of materials of questionable or inappropriate content. The board agreed to encourage counsel to explore these considerations.

The next regularly scheduled meeting was scheduled at 5:30p.m. March 20, 2023.

Steve Tonsor, Secretary