

July 19, 2021

Chairperson Gina Carroll called the meeting to order with Karen Seward, Jeanne Cheek, Cathy Mudd, Pam Potterfield, Lisa Russell, JoAnn Woodall, Steve Tonsor, and Jane Anne Olson present. Mrs. Carroll recognized and welcomed Mrs. Olson as new Treasurer of the Board.

Minutes of the May 17, 2021 meeting were read by Steve Tonsor. JoAnn Woodall motioned, and Pam Potterfield seconded that minutes be approved as presented. Motion passed.

The financial report for May and June was reviewed. Mrs. Seward emphasized that despite repeated efforts to rectify reporting, disbursement of grant dollars continue to be reported as budgeted expenses. Perhaps efforts to clarify should be waived, accepting that confusion exists. Following motion by Lisa Russell, the financials were approved.

In the Librarian's Report, Mrs. Seward said 22 children had enjoyed the Summer Reading Program. A printer and ink donated by John A. and Linda Hays were acknowledged. Mrs. Seward presented the nearly completed Monroe City Public Library website. Features were shared, with completion expected July 26th. Also discussed was a new digital high school alumni yearbook soon to be unveiled through the library. In May and June 607 patrons checked 1085 books, with 390 digital books utilized.

In New Business, Mrs. Carroll and Mrs. Seward shared information regarding the potential of the Monroe City Public Library merging into the Little Dixie Regional Libraries. Last month they and Steve Tonsor had met with Little Dixie representatives collecting information on the mechanics of a merger. Little Dixie's responsibilities would include staffing and ongoing oversight of employees in Monroe City. A wide array of services and materials would be made available to the Monroe City community thru a courier service and cooperation with a larger pool of regional libraries. Promotional material acquired by Mrs. Seward in follow-up meetings, including details of programs offered, were shared. Monroe City taxpayers, in return, would be required to relinquish ownership of current assets of the Monroe City Public Library. Future tax revenues would be collected directly by Little Dixie. Representation by Monroe City residents to regularly held Little Dixie public meetings would be welcomed. Previous locations that merged have 1 board member representing them on the Little Dixie Board. Since Monroe City Public Library is housed in Monroe City's administration building, a long term lease of a portion of the building would be expected. Mrs. Seward indicated the Little Dixie Board had approved the merger, subject to previously mentioned conditions. After lengthy discussion, and a review of state law governing Missouri Public Libraries, JoAnn Woodall motioned that a merger into the Little Dixie Regional Library be pursued. Motion passed 7-0. By consensus, the board agreed to approach John Russell to review state statutes without compensation. If his opinion of legality is confirmed, the board would approach the Monroe City Council in regular session with a request for long term lease of a portion of City Hall.

Mrs. Carroll set the next regular meeting of the Monroe City Library Board for September 20, 2021. Meeting was adjourned.