

# **Carlock Public Library Board**

## **Special Meeting Minutes**

### **Monday, November 27, 2023**

President, Beth Wagner, called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. Board members present were David Garrison, Kevin Moore, Nick Birky, and Laura Stephenson. Mike Miller was absent. Library Director Christie Lau was in attendance. There was 1 visitor. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

#### **Public Comment:**

- Eric Larson (818 N Main St in Eureka): Given the current issue that is going on with a member of the community, Eric believes that a ban of the young man who is currently causing concern is the right thing to do for the community on the whole. He recognizes the fear that may exist regarding a decision either way. He wants the library to continue to be known as a place that protects the children of the community. No matter the decision, Eric plans to stay as an employee and to help the library weather whatever storm may come from this situation.

#### **Correspondence:**

- There is a letter from Rachel Janssen regarding specific actions that the board could put into place to help protect the members of the library.
- There is also a letter from the library's lawyer regarding the legality of a patron ban. A suspension would be possible, but an all out ban would not be appropriate, in his legal opinion. Additionally, the behaviors that result in a suspension must be observed within the library.

#### **Old Business:**

- **Library Security:**
  - Suggested policy updates were discussed
    - No computer use without a library card - this is problematic because there are people who are traveling through or visiting relatives who come in to use the library.
    - A person can be suspended for multiple "small offenses" - Currently, lingering in the children's section is not an offense, but we can add that to the policy when we update it.
    - Camera - There are currently no cameras in the library, but some could be added for the overall protection of patrons of the library. Dave mentioned that he has been advocating for cameras for the past five years. Nick agreed and indicated that cameras are a lot less expensive now than they were even five years ago. A policy would need to be written regarding how long those records need to be kept. Dave will look into the costs associated with these. We would also need recording capabilities since the footage would need to be kept.

- Sex offenders cannot be in the library when groups of children are present - Libraries are currently not part of the law of places that sex offenders cannot be.
  - 3 staff members present during children's programs - Currently, there is not enough staff to have 3 members here during children's programs. The library is open 50 hours a week. There are two staff members here at all times currently. The difficulty in this is finding someone who could meet the strange scheduling that this would require. Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday mornings are the highest times of need. Ideally, this would require 30 hours per week, but the library could likely get by with 20 hours per week. This would likely need to be 2 staff members. Currently, there are times when there is only 1 staff member here if the second staff member is either on vacation or is ill. At this point, it is a safety concern. At 20 hours a week, this is an additional \$15,000 to the budget.
  - There is an additional vulnerability that the town of Carlock has in that there is not a local law enforcement force. This puts additional pressure on the current concerns.
  - Is there a way to contact others for additional help? Who would that be? The McLean County Sheriff's office? The local prosecutor? Local politicians?
  - Working together with the Village Board may also give us more leverage to go to the McLean County Sheriff's office with?
  - Training for staff in how to deal with difficult situations and people who are in the library. Eric indicated that additional training would be welcomed and beneficial.
- Dave asked what we can do now to make those who work here feel safer and more secure starting now as opposed to down the line. There is a need to work actions sooner rather than later.
  - Dave made a motion that the library director begin the process of hiring additional staff in order to ensure adequate coverage in the library. Beth seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
  - Beth made a motion to approve monies up to \$500 to pay for a training for staff development on dealing with difficult people. Dave seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
  - A letter will be sent to the home of the young man who is currently causing concern outlining the expected behaviors and rules.

#### **New Business:**

- **Trustee Resignation:** Following the last meeting, Lacey resigned from the board. Dave made a motion to table this until the January meeting. Kevin seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **Upcoming meetings:**

- Next regular meeting: January 16, 2023 at 6:30pm.

Laura made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Nick seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Laura Stephenson, Secretary