**CROSS COUNTY LIBRARY**

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**

***July 5, 2016***

**Call to Order and Roll Call:** The meeting was called to order at 4:02 by Board Chair, Reta Ragland.  Trustees in attendance were Joy Shepherd, George Anne Draper, Jerry Harvey, and Kitty Bingham.  Also in attendance, were John Paul Myrick, Executive Director, Claire Miller, Deputy Director.

Public Attendance: Mayor Bob Stacy and Judge Donnie Sanders

**Reading and Adoption of Minutes:** None

**Financial Reports:** None

**Operations and Staff Reports:** None

**Public Participation and Comments:** None

**Unfinished Business:** Big Green Switch project - covered under new business.

**New Business:** John Paul suggested that the Trustees suspend the rules and enter into an executive session to discuss personnel matters.  Kitty moved to move into executive session and Jerry seconded the motion.  Mayor Stacy, Judge Sanders, and Claire stepped out during this session. The Board reconvened at 4:31, taking no action from matters discussed in the executive session.

Trustees asked for input from Mayor Stacy and Judge Sanders concerning the library move.  Mayor Stacy is all for the Big Green Switch project.  Moving to the current library space would give City Hall 2,000 more square feet than they could afford to build new.  Currently the City Council is split on the matter.  This is why they were disappointed to see that the library had not done any fundraising because no matter what, the library needs more space.  City Council will wait until September to see what funds have been raised.  Economic Development Council is all for the project and Mayor Stacy believes if money is being raised, they will extend their original timeline.

Judge Sanders said that if Quorum Court was asked to take a vote to sell the library building and hand the money over, there would be one vote in favor.  He said that he has to represent the desire of the people of Cross County and the people are overwhelmingly against the move.

Joy Shepherd mentioned that most of the people for the project are younger and the way they show support is by liking a Facebook page rather than making phone calls.  Judge Sanders stated that people may like a Facebook page but that doesn’t mean they are in support of anything.  Jerry Harvey read the following from the “I Support the Big Green Switch for Cross County’s Future” Facebook page:  **“A place for supporters of a 21st century library for Cross County to share information.”** Jerry said that it’s pretty clear what the people are liking the page for.  Jerry asked what would happen if we had 500 people call Judge Sanders in support of the project.  The Judge responded that he would receive 1,000 unsolicited calls against the project.  Joy said that the Judge was discounting EDC, the likes on the Facebook page, and everyone in Downtown Revitalization who are for the project.

Judge Sanders has been speaking with Judge Griffin of Independence County and Judge Griffin recommends that the county hold onto the current library building because it is a large asset for the county.  Mayor Stacy then said that the current library building is worth $650,000 and the new one would be $1.2 million so the library would become a larger asset.   The Judge responded that the cost of maintaining would be higher and Jerry Harvey reminded him that it would not be a large increase according to our feasibility study.

Judge Sanders also asked if the move went on the ballot in November, did those in the room think it would pass.  Kitty said no.  Joy said that she felt it had a chance to pass.  Judge Sanders said that no one has convinced him that the county is for this.  He said that it is hard to get Cross County people to vote for something that they feel only benefits Wynne.

Judge Sanders said that he had told the Wynne City Council that the library building was not for sale.  John Paul asked if the building is not for sale, why fundraise?  Judge Sanders said that it would take a large majority vote to convince him that it was a good idea.  The library has to leverage what it has, that’s why fundraising is important.  The Judge said if the library can raise $1.2 million they can move when they want to.  Major Stacy said that he still can’t understand the debate about the money for the sale of the library building not moving with the library, that he cannot fathom the Quorum Court not turning over the money.  Judge Sanders said that he has no say in the money.  He mentioned that it’s taken Batesville 3 years to get started on their library project.  If it’s worth having, it’s worth waiting for.

Judge Sanders also mentioned that this type of issue is one that could cause him to not be Judge in January.  He wants to be Judge for 6 to 8 more years.

**Trustee Comment Period:** Joy made a motion to schedule a called meeting on Friday at 4pm to decide how to respond to the Judge’s decision.  Jerry seconded the motion.  All aye, motion carried.

**Adjournment:** Kitty moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:30pm.  Joy seconded the motion.  All aye, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Claire Miller, MLIS

Deputy Director