

**Cross County Library Board of Trustees
Called Session, August 3, 2018
MINUTES**

The Board of Trustees of the Cross County Library met in a Called Session on Friday, August 3, 2018 in the Regional Librarian’s Office at the Cross County Library. Chairperson Joy Shepherd called the meeting to order at 10:04 AM. A roll call by the Secretary determined the following Trustees were present:

Chairperson Shepherd

Trustee George Ann Draper

Trustee Renee Boeckmann

Trustee Jerry Harvey

Also present were the Board Secretary and Regional Librarian the Reverend John Paul Myrick, MLS and Mr. Benny McDowell, a candidate for the vacancy in the Board of Trustees, Place 5 position.

The first item of business was the adoption of the Minutes from the June 26, 218 Regular Session. Trustee Boeckmann made the motion to adopt the minutes, and Trustee Harvey seconded the motion. The vote for adoption was as follows:

Chairperson Shepherd - Aye

Trustee Draper - Aye

Trustee Boeckmann - Aye

Trustee Harvey - Aye.

The Minutes of the June 26th Regular Session stood as adopted.

The next order of business was approval of the Financial Reports of the Cross County Library for the period ending June 30, 2018. Rev. Myrick pointed out the balance of the General Fund, which stood at over $250,000, stating that, by his memory, this was the most comfortable financial position the library had been in at the midpoint of the fiscal year since his arrival in 2013. This was attributed to many factors, but especially to the re-appraisal of farm lands in Cross County which increased the amount the library received in millage funds. In related matters, it was discussed that Mrs. Esther Killough was expected to donate a parcel of property on Tipperary Street in Wynne to the Friends of the Cross County Library, the proceeds of which were to be used on the Burnett Center. The year-to-date expenses for both purchase and demolition and cleaning at the Burnett Center were discussed. This amount is slightly over $60,000, including the $54,000 purchase price, and utilities, and has been met with expenditures from the Building Fund and through donations, with no millage funds being used.

A motion by Trustee Boeckmann, seconded by Trustee Draper to approve the Financial Report was placed on the table. The vote on the motion was as follows:

Chairperson Shepherd - Aye

Trustee Draper - Aye

Trustee Boeckmann - Aye

Trustee Harvey - Aye

The Financial Report as of June 30, 2018 was accepted.

The County Operations Manager’s report was next. With Mrs. Ogletree being on vacation, the Regional Librarian offered to answer any questions. Summer Reading was briefly mentioned as was assistance to job seekers and public computer and WiFi usage was discussed. The Chair motioned to accept the County Operations Manager’s Report. Trustee Harvey seconded the motion, and the vote on that motion was as follows:

 Chairperson Shepherd - Aye

 Trustee Draper - Aye

 Trustee Boeckmann - Aye

 Trustee Harvey - Aye

The report was accepted.

Extensive discussion ensued with regard to the proposed budgets for the Library and the Regional Library System for the 2019 year. The Reverend Myrick presented a General Fund Budget detailing revenues of $404,200.00 and expenditures of $404,105.07 for the 2019 year, including a salary schedule providing $189,675.79 in salaries, wages and benefits to Cross County employees and a $29,511.07 allocation to the Regional Library to support operations. Also included was a capital expenditures budget of $3,400 for the addition of a self-check circulation system and a provisional expenditure of $20,000.00 towards a book vending machine to be used remotely from the library.

Trustees discussed the various endowments and funds held by the library. It was explained that many had been in place for years, with no specific designation with regard their use. The use of some of the funds not derived from millage proceeds towards renovations of the Burnett Center was discussed, and the need to the Board to be as prudent and responsible as possible with the library’s deposits and investments. All deposits meet state and federal regulations in terms of depository insurance and/or securities being offered by the depository institutions as surety, but interest rates, while low, vary greatly between the locally-owned banking institutions.

Chairperson Shepherd asked the Regional Librarian to provide the Board with information regarding rates and policies regarding these funds, which he agreed to provide by the next county board meeting in September.

Trustee Harvey motioned to adopt the 2019 General and Capital Funds Budgets. Chairperson Shepherd seconded the motion, and the board voted as follows:

 Chairperson Shepherd - Aye

 Trustee Draper - Aye

 Trustee Boeckmann - Aye

 Trustee Harvey - Aye

The General and Capital Fund Budgets for 2019 were adopted and will be forwarded on to the Regional Library and to the Cross County Government. It was agreed that the

Trustee Boeckmann inquired about a statement Reverend Myrick had made when discussing the budget with regard to a cap on his budget of $72,000.00. Rev. Myrick explained that the salary range stated during recruitment was $45,000.00 to $72,000.00, and that the range was capped at $72,000.00. Rev. Myrick explained that he was offered $66,500 to start, and the he counter offered with $64,5000 and other considerations, which the Board had agreed to, and that his salary would grow based on raises given to other employees until the cap was reached. He explained that the cap has been reached.

Trustee Draper said this amount was never agreed to by the Board. Trustee Boeckmann stated that the Board could not limit itself, particularly if they wanted to retain the Librarian and if he wanted to stay. Rev. Myrick told Trustee Boeckmann that she should make these feelings known to the library’s representatives on the ECARL Board, for them to address in the future. Reverend Myrick stated he was very happy in his post and would like to stay. He pointed out that he had set the longevity record for the Regional Librarian since Lolly Shaver held the post, but that it was unlikely that he would exceed her lengthy record, but he did want to stay several more years. Trustee Draper asked that Rev. Myrick provide the board with complete information regarding his benefit package. Rev. Myrick agreed, and offered to get additional data from the State Library with regard to benefit packages for chief administrative officers.

The Board then turned to the Cross County Library Building, Farm and Properties Budget. The Board approved the development of a separate budget and financial reporting system for the Burnett Center, the Shaver Farm and any other such commercial/agricultural investments the Library might hold for the benefit of the library and the community. Funds derived from the properties would be used towards the properties to negate any need to rely on tax dollars for these operations. The budget projected $8,613 in revenues and $6,500 in expenditures for these operations. The Chair motioned to adopt this separate budget. Trustee Boeckmann seconded the motion. Trustees voted as follows:

 Chairperson Shepherd - Aye

 Trustee Draper - Aye

 Trustee Boeckmann - Aye

 Trustee Harvey - Aye

The budget was adopted.

There were no further Trustee Comments, so Trustee Boeckmann moved to adjourn the meeting; Trustee Draper seconded, and the board voted as follows:

 Chairperson Shepherd - Aye

 Trustee Draper - Aye

 Trustee Boeckmann - Aye

 Trustee Harvey - Aye

The Board adjourned at 10:59 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. John Paul Myrick, MLS

Regional Librarian/Secretary to the Board