

**Whiting Public Library
Regular Board Meeting
April 9, 2024**

Board Members Present:

Ashley Sudar, Vice President
Amy Holmes, Treasurer
Mary Lu Cowley, Secretary
Lynn Haynes, Board Member
Brittani Baker, Board Member

Board Members Absent:

Walter Wachel, President (due to illness)

Guests:

Others:

Montserrat Inglada, Director
Mary Kershner, Assistant Director
Laura Lopez, Recording Secretary

Public:

Carolyn Marsh, 1804 Oliver Street, Whiting, Indiana

A notice of the Regular Board Meeting was faxed to the Times on April 1, 2024. The notice was also posted at the Oliver Street and Ohio Avenue entrances on April 4, 2024.

Ms. Sudar, Vice-President, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting – March 12, 2024

Mrs. Cowley moved:

THAT the minutes of the March 12, 2024 Regular Board Meeting be approved as submitted.

SECONDED by: Mrs. Haynes

ACTION: Carried Unanimously

Report from Board President

None

Director's Report

√ Upon review, all expenditures were approved for March 16, 2024 - April 15, 2024.

√ Our 2019 - 2023 audit conducted by the Indiana State Board of Accounts has been completed.

No issues were noted and our Exit Communication form was submitted.

√ NIPSCO update: Thomas Irrigation was on site this week to repair the damaged irrigation system. The invoice was submitted to NIPSCO's claims adjuster and they will be paying Thomas Irrigation directly.

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√As of the date of this report, we continue to have issues with the damaged phone lines. The public fax machine is also not available for patron use as a result. AT&T and our IT person, John, will be on-site on Thursday April 4th to look at the problem.

√ We are currently revising the library's Social Media policy to address how we respond to public comments and manage staff use of library social media. We will present a draft for the Board's review in the near future.

√ Laura received a pass for her evaluation and as agreed by the board, will receive a 3% raise effective April 30, 2024.

√ Ashley Ayotte requested a meeting with me regarding the Part-Time Clerk position. Due to health concerns, Ashley had previously resigned. She had surgery to remedy those issues and her doctor cleared her to work with no restrictions. Ashley asked if we would consider hiring her once again. Ashley is a great worker, and I believe she is the best candidate for the position. I want to give her the opportunity to return to work here at the library.

√ After reviewing the workshops offered at the ILF Regional Conference, I decided they were not beneficial for our staff, so we will not be attending the conference.

√ The School City of Whiting has appointed a new library board member, Mr. Scott Kokandy.

Library Closure, Pierogi Fest

Mrs. Cowley moved:

THAT the library be closed on Friday 7/26/24 for Pierogi Fest.

SECONDED by: Mrs. Baker

ACTION: Carried Unanimously

Personnel

Mrs. Cowley moved:

THAT Ashley Ayotte be re-hired as a part-time clerk at \$12.00/hour, effective immediately.

SECONDED by: Mrs. Baker

ACTION: Carried Unanimously

Midwest Environmental Consulting Services, Inc.

Mrs. Haynes moved:

THAT the invoice from Midwest Environmental Consulting Services, Inc. for asbestos sampling in the amount of \$6,083.00 be approved for payment.

SECONDED by: Mrs. Holmes

ACTION: Carried Unanimously

Building Renovation Update

The pre-bid meeting was held on April 9th at 11 a.m. with a turnout of approximately 25 contractors. Bids will be opened on April 30th. Bids will then be screened to ensure all requirements are met. Qualifying bids will be forwarded to the Board for review. Winning bid will be announced at the May 14th board meeting.

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Public Comments

Resident Carolyn Marsh asked the following questions:

1. Each Board member's appointing authority.
2. The amount of Educational Program monies received from the City of Whiting.
3. What and how much is the non-resident fee.
4. The amount approved for the renovation project.
5. The amount of phases for the renovation project.

Adjournment

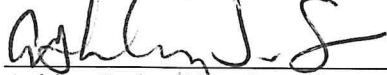
Mrs. Cowley moved:

THAT the meeting be adjourned.

SECONDED by: Mrs. Haynes

ACTION: Meeting Adjourned 6:32 p.m.

Walter Wachel, President



Ashley Sudar, Vice-President



Mary Lu Cowley, Secretary



Amy Holmes, Treasurer

Brittani Baker, Board Member



Lynn Haynes, Board Member

Rachel Wajvoda, Board Member

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Lopez

Reviewed by: Mary Lu Cowley, Board Secretary