Stone County Library

Regular Board Meeting

June 16, 2022

Beginning Time: 1:06 PM

Ending Time: 2:16 PM

The Board of Trustees of the Stone County Library met in regular session on Thursday, June 6, 2022. The meeting was called to order by Board Vice-president Steve Seaton. Present were Steve Seaton, Nina Grayson, Mr. Scott and new board member Mr. John Powers.

The minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed. Ms. Grayson made a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Mr. Powers seconded the motion. All in favor. **Motion carried**.

**Treasurer’s Report:**

The balance for the treasurer’s cash at the end of May was $328,477.24and the building reserve was $108,829.54. Ms. Payne reported that the library received $12, 671.81 from the county, which was more than expected. She stated that this is $10,000 under projected budget, but that State Aid and Art and Entertainment tax is expected to come in by October and county revenue in December. These should come close to meeting the projected budget. Ms. Payne reported that a sign company was able to move the lettering today, since the letters were made of aluminum. Ms. Payne reported that the auditors were in and out in less than a day. In the past it had taken 2 ½ days, which is the time they expected for this year, but wasn’t needed. Mr. Powers asked if the county auditors do it and was answered that it is a private company. Mr. Payne asked how the library is funded. Ms. Payne answered, property taxes, which have steadily gone up over the 5 years she has been here, state taxes, state A & E, copies, faxes, grants, and donations. Mr. Scott made a motion to accept the treasurer’s report. Ms. Grayson seconded. All in favor.  **Motion carried**.

**Librarian’s Report:**

Ms. Payne reported that digital items were way up; already meeting 80% of the $400 per month that she budgets for them. Mr. Scott asked about tracking and was informed that there are two ways. One being metered access, the other is cost per circulation, which is cheaper. Older series are and Youth audiobooks are the top circulated items.

Galena item circulation is very high with Blue Eye and Crane being about the same. Mr. Seaton observed that even though item circulation is high, patron numbers are significantly lower than last year. Ms. Payne had no comment. There’s no rhyme or reason to it.

Ms. Payne reported that SRP numbers are about as high as in 2019, which was our biggest year. As of now the numbers are about 250, with 2019 being 350. Outreach to the schools sees about 500 children per week. The library also offered a virtual visit to the North Carolina Aquarium and received about 1,000 participants.

**Crane**

Ms. Payne reported ADA equipment for the doors is scheduled to be installed in the next couple of weeks.

**Galena**

The new phone system will be installed on the week of June 20th.

**Blue Eye**

We now have a copy of the liability insurance from the Village of Blue Eye on file.

**Reeds Spring Holds Locker**

Nothing new to report.

**Outreach**

The library will be attending various Independence Day celebrations: Hurley on the 19th, Crane on the 29th, and Galena on the 2nd.

**No motion needed** on Librarian’s Report.

**Other Business**

Ms. Payne recommended eliminating Saturday hours through the summer, at Blue Eye and Galena locations due to the low patron count on those days. She would like to re-evaluate in the fall. Mr. Seaton suggested that closings, hours, and times are those of the Director and all members were in agreement with that.

Ms. Payne gave an update regarding minimum wage. Two years ago, minimum wage by 2023 was predicted to be at $12.00/hour. Ms. Payne would like to start staff at $14.00/hour stating that most libraries' salaries as 60% of their budget and we stand at around 50%. Mr. Scott asked that she research area libraries to see where they’re at and the county employees, as well.

Ms. Payne informed the board that in 2023 Stone County Library will be celebrating 75 years and would like to do something all year long to celebrate the milestone. She asked the board to give suggestions on how they would like the celebration to go. Some ideas are promotional materials; such as pens, keychains, etc... to share with patrons, banners at each location, and a day of celebration.

Ms Payne was informed about the possibilities of blackouts and asked the board how they would like the library to take action. Suggestions were to move the thermostats up to 75 degrees during business hours and if a blackout occurs, once the library reaches 85 degrees, the staff is to close the branch.

**No motion needed** on Other Business.

Next regular meeting: July 21, 2022 at 1:00 pm.

Mr. Scott made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Grayson seconded the motion. All in favor. **Motion carried**.

Respectfully,

Rebecca Payne, Director