

**CITY OF MERRILL
LIBRARY BOARD
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2024 MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING COMMUNITY ROOM 4:00 PM**

I. Opening

1. **Call to order and roll call** - President Mike Geisler called the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 3:58PM in the Library Community Room. Present: Katie Breitenmoser, Darcy Dalsky, Chris Grunenwald, Audrey Huftel, Ryan Martinovici, Elizabeth McCrank, Barbara Rothlisberg. Excused: Mark Weix, Jr. Also present: Laurie Ollhoff, Andrea Bennett, and camera operator.
2. **Correspondence** - A note of thanks from a library visitor to the library staff for their warm greeting and the wonderful service provided. Thank you letter from the American Red Cross to library staff for the monetary donation. No additional correspondence.
3. **Public comment** - No public comment.

II. Consent Items

1. **Minutes of regular meeting on August 21, 2024** - K. Breitenmoser/A. Huftel/C to approve the Minutes of the regular meeting of August 21, 2024. No further discussion.
2. **Vouchers of August 2024** - E. McCrank/D. Dalsky/C to approve the Vouchers for August 2024. No further discussion.
3. **Unaudited Monthly Revenue & Expense Report for August 2024** - E. McCrank/K. Breitenmoser/C to approve the Unaudited Monthly Revenue & Expense Report for August 2024. No further discussion.
4. **Monthly Statistical Report for August 2024** - A. Huyftel/B. Rothlisberg/C to approve the Monthly Statistical Report for August 2024. E. McCrank commented on the magazine checkouts and why we have seen a steady increase. L. Ollhoff explained that the Wisconsin Valley Library System had a change in procedure that now offered patrons from other libraries the opportunity to request magazines between WVLS library members. No further discussion.

III. Reports/Discussion Items/Action Items

1. **Discussion Item: Northern Wisconsin ILS Consortium Exploration (NICE) System Merger Update** - L. Ollhoff provided an update on the Northern Wisconsin ILS Consortium Exploration (NICE) System Merger. The Wisconsin Valley Library Service (WVLS) member libraries voted at the September 5 V-Cat meeting to determine whether the system would move forward and perhaps negotiate terms with the Northern Waters Library System who had already voted down the merger. The vote to merge did not pass. It was a

close 50/50 split. However, a decision of this magnitude required a two-thirds majority vote to pass. Discussions will take a hiatus for the time being and WVLS administration will discuss next steps. No further discussion.

2. **Discussion Item: Strategic Plan Goals & Actions Steps #4 Review** - No further discussion.
3. **Discussion Item: Wisconsin Trustees Essential #16: Ethics and Conflict of Interest Laws Applying to Trustees** - No further discussion.

IV. Library Director's Report L. Ollhoff briefly reviewed the written Library Director's Report. Highlighted fall programming for youth and adults: Start with Art brought to our young patrons from the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum, a new Spice of the Month Grab-N-Go for our adult patrons. Announced a new offering at the Library: Notary Public Services will be regularly offered each month by appointment preferably. Highlighted the upcoming and very popular Friends of the Library Book Sale on October 24, October 25, and October 26. Highlighted conversation with former Board member Gene Bebel. Thanked everyone who attended the retirement gathering for library staff member, Terri Akey, and Library Board Financial Secretary, Richard Mamer. T. Akey celebrated 35 years as a library staff member and R. Mamer celebrated 30 years on the Board. No further discussion.

V. President's Remarks M. Geisler thanked everyone for their service on the Board.

VI. Date and Time of Next Meeting Wednesday, October 16, 2024, @4PM in the Library Community Room.

VII. Adjournment A. Huftel/K. Breitenmoser/C to adjourn the meeting at 4:12 PM.