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NOTICE OF WYANDOTTE COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD MEETING

A meeting of the Wyandotte County Library Board of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, will be conducted in person on Tuesday, November 14, 2023, at 4:00 P.M. at the South Branch Library, 3104 Strong Ave., Kansas City KS 66106. **This meeting is intended to be in person only.**

AGENDA
WyCo Library Board Meeting

Tuesday, November 14, 2023
4pm
South Branch Library
3104 Strong Ave, Kansas City, KS 66106

I. Call to Order / Roll Call

II. Old Business
Approve Minutes

III. New Business
Allocations

IV. 2024 Meeting Dates
Feb 20
May 21
June 18
August 20
Nov 19

V. Monthly Reports
Turner
Kansas City, Kansas
Bonner

VI. Adjournment

WYANDOTTE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD

MEETING NOTES – June 20, 2023

Sixth Floor, City Hall

I. Call to Order/Attendance

Erica Simpson, Chair of the KCKPL Board of Trustees, called the meeting to order at 3:30pm.

Location: Sixth Floor Meeting Room, City Hall, 701 N. 7th Street Trfy, KCK, 66101

In Attendance: Erica Simpson, Jody Boeding, Judy Anderson, Korri Hall, Joe Caiharr, Rocki Mayes, Susan Martin, Jim Jarsulic, and Gregory Todd.

Absent: Micki Hill and Commissioner Davis' Appointee (not yet confirmed).

Support Advisors in Attendance: Carol Levers & Sam Moore of KCK Public Libraries, Jack Granath, Director of Bonner Springs City Library and Aaron Froelich of Turner Library, Branch Manager.

UG Support Staff in Attendance: Jeff Conway, UG Legal Department, Reginald Lindsey, Debbie Jonscher and Adrian Alemifar, Budget/Treasurer's Office, Lisa Rangel, UG Support & Liaison.

II. Introductions & Announcements

Roll call=note that six Board members must be in attendance for a quorum.

III. Approval of Minutes

Rocki Mayes made motion to approve the minutes from the May 16, 2023 meeting. The motion was seconded by Joe Caiharr and was approved by the Board.

IV. Business

A. Budget Discussion:

Budget discussion ran from 3:35-3:55pm. Jeff Conway, UG Legal reviewed Revenue Neutral and budget certification dates for the Board. Reggie Lindsey, Debbie Jonscher and Adrian Alemifar provided a statement of revenues and expenditures and answered questions.

As the discussion was ongoing, the Board decided additional time was necessary to finalize the budget and a special session was scheduled for Tuesday, July 11, 2023 at 4:00pm, 5th Floor Conference Room, City Hall. Note that while it is encouraged that all attend in person, Zoom teleconference will be available for those who cannot attend in person.

B. UG Ethics Training:

Ruth Benien, Ethics Administrator for the Unified Government of Wyandotte County, presented the Board with the required ethics training. Additionally, all Board members were provided a copy of the UG Code of Ethics, contact information along with the ethics inquiry process. After the presentation, Board members signed and submitted the Ethics Pledge and Oath to be kept on file.

NOTE: Important Budget Season Dates:

June 15=Final Valuations

July 20=notify if exceeding

August 10=Budget Exceeding Rev. Neutral Due

August 7=Commission votes if Revenue Neutral

June 15=UG Notify taxing entities of neutral rate

July 27=Revenue Neutral Budget due

August 14=RN Rate or August 28 to Exceed RN Rate

August 31=Commission votes if exceeding RN Rate

VI. Library Reports

Monthly reports were submitted from each of the districts and reviewed by Board as time allows.

Kansas City Kansas Public Library—Carol Levers & Sam Moore

Bonner Springs City Library—Jack Granath

Turner Community Library—Aaron Froelich

V. Adjournment--Meeting adjourned 5:25 pm (Motioned by Jody Boeding. Seconded by Korri Hall and carried.)

Next meeting: Budget Voting/Discussion July 11, 2023 4:00pm @ 5th Floor Conference Room, City Hall.

WYANDOTTE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD

MEETING NOTES – July 11, 2023

Fifth Floor, KCK City Hall

I. Call to Order/Attendance

Erica Simpson, Chair of the KCKPL Board of Trustees, called the meeting to order at 4:00pm.

Location: Fifth Floor Meeting Room, City Hall, 701 N. 7th St, KCK, 66101.

In Attendance: Erica Simpson, Jody Boeding, Judy Anderson, Korri Hall, Joe Caiharr, Rocki Mayes, Susan Martin, Jim Jarsulic, and Gregory Todd.

Absent: Micki Hill and Commissioner Davis' Appointee (not yet confirmed).

Support Advisors in Attendance: Carol Levers & Sam Moore of KCK Public Libraries, Jack Granath, Director of Bonner Springs City Library and Aaron Froelich of Turner Library, Branch Manager.

UG Support Staff in Attendance: Jeff Conway, UG Legal Department, Reginald Lindsey, Debbie Jonscher and Adrian Alemifar, Budget/Treasurer's Office, Lisa Rangel, UG Support & Liaison.

II. Introductions & Announcements

Roll call attendance. Erica Simpson, Chair made opening remarks regarding the value and importance of our Libraries and offered thanks for the work they do for our community.

III. Approval of Minutes

Because this was a special meeting for determining whether or not the Board will choose to remain revenue neutral, the minutes for the summer meetings (June and July) will be approved at a later date.

IV. Business

A. Budget Discussion:

Carol Levers, director of the Kansas City, KS Public Libraries shared a presentation outlining additional budgetary considerations along with a projected cost of a Library expansion in the Piper district.

This was followed by statements from Joe Caiharr regarding the difficulty of tax bills for people in his district of Edwardsville and response from all members who shared similar concerns and addressed the questions of how the board can meet the financial needs of the Libraries so they can continue to provide services county-wide.

Board member Jim Jarsulic posed questions regarding the Turner location that was proposed and rejected by UG engineers several years ago, prior to the selected site for the current Turner Public Library branch.

Adrian Alemifar outlined revenues and expenditures and Reggie Lindsey provided a statement of projected balances including the potential opening of a new Library and answered questions from the Board.

B. Revenue Neutral Rate – Notice of Intent

Joe Caiharr made **motion to remain Revenue Neutral Rate (RNR)**, seconded by Rocki Mayes.

Roll call:

Aye Votes

Joe Caiharr
Gregory Todd
Rocki Mayes
Jim Jarsulic
Erica Simpson

No Votes

Korri Hall
Jody Boeding
Susan Martin
Judy Anderson

**At the time of the vote it was assumed by UG Legal that both Gregory Todd and Micki Hill were online or attempting to join via Zoom. Because Micki Hill was not responding on screen, the Board reached out via speaker phone to obtain her vote.*

With the perceived tie, Chairperson Erica Simpson offered a reconsideration of the vote. Erica Simpson indicated that her original vote to not exceed Revenue Neutral was based on the fact that she had not received a timeline to confirm the progress toward opening a new Library branch in the Piper district. However, knowing that the Board is not bound to exceed Revenue Neutral Rate, as the vote today only indicates “Intent”, a second vote was proposed.

Kori Hall, **made motion to exceed the Revenue Neutral Rate at a maximum mill rate of 6.12**, seconded by Susan Martin. Jeff clarified this intent will be sent to the Clerk’s office and will be noticed as such for a public hearing set for August 22, 2023, at which time the board cannot go above 6.12, but could go below 6.12.

Roll call:

Aye Votes

Erica Simpson
Korri Hall
Jody Boeding
Susan Martin
Judy Anderson
Micki Hill* *via
speakerphone*

No Votes

Joe Caiharr
Gregory Todd
Rocki Mayes
Jim Jarsulic

After the vote and end of meeting, it was discovered by the UG Legal, that Micki Hill was unable to connect fully to the Zoom teleconference. Because she was not “present” for the discussion and information shared, this necessitated that her vote be removed, resulting in a final vote count of 5-4 in favor or exceeding the RNR.

UG Legal shared that the Board’s second vote supersedes the first as no objection or point of order was raised during the vote and all Board members who were present, actively participated in the second vote. The four Board members voting on the negative side did not exercise their right to call an additional special meeting to re-vote that could have been held anytime between July 11-20, 2023. Only three members would have been needed to call this meeting to re-vote, as outlined in the Library Board’s Charter Resolution. As no special meeting was called, and the results from the latest vote were to indicate the Board’s intent to exceed the Revenue Neutral Rate, the document was signed, witnessed and submitted to Debbie Jonscher to be shared with the County Clerk and UG Board of Commissioners.

VI. Library Reports

Because the purpose of this meeting was solely to consider the Board’s intent to exceed or not exceed the Revenue Neutral Rate, no Library Reports were shared at this time.

V. Adjournment—Meeting adjourned 5:40 pm (Motioned by Jody Boeding. Seconded by Susan Martin and carried.)

Next meeting: Budget Voting/Public Comment - August 22, 2023 @ 4:00pm, FL Schlagle Library.

WYANDOTTE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD

MEETING NOTES – August 22, 2023

FL Schlagle Library

I. Call to Order/Attendance

Erica Simpson, Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

Location: FL Schlagle Library, 4051 West Dr, Kansas City, KS 66109

In Attendance: Erica Simpson, Jody Boeding, Judy Anderson, Korri Hall, Joe Caiharr, Rocki Mayes, Jim Jarsulic, Micki Hill, Melanie Schwartzkopf and Gregory Todd.

Absent: Susan Martin (*arrived just after meeting ended. Mix-up with location*)

Support Advisors in Attendance: Carol Levers & Sam Moore of KCK Public Libraries, Jack Granath, Director of Bonner Springs City Library and Aaron Froelich of Turner Library, Branch Manager.

UG Support Staff in Attendance: Daniel Kuhn, UG Legal Department, Reginald Lindsey, Debbie Jonscher and Adrian Alemifar, Budget/Treasurer's Office, Lisa Rangel, UG Support & Liaison.

II. Introductions & Announcements

- Introducing new member, Melanie Swartzkopf of Edwardsville, appointed by Commissioner Davis and confirmed to the Library Board on August 17, 2023.
- Imagination Library Announcement-Dolly Parton visited Governor Kelly and the state of Kansas this past week and is expanding her [Imagination Library](#) services for children in all counties across the state. This program mails high quality books, every month, to participating children in pre-K and early childhood age ranges. Erica Simpson is attempting to arrange for possible guest speaker, Melanie Rooker, Executive Director of the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund, to attend either the November or February meeting to share how the Wyandotte County Libraries might become affiliates to help facilitate this early literacy program for the children of Wyandotte County. More information to follow.
- Resignation-Erica Simpson, Chair, issued her resignation as Chairperson of the Wyandotte County Library Board. Mayor Tyrone Gardner has named his appointee, Joe Caiharr, to serve as the next Chairperson of the Board.

III. Notification Requirement

- A. Publication/Vendor Confirmation: Due to an error in print notification through the UG, the notice for the Wyandotte County Library Board was not submitted to the print version of the *Echo*. Ten days are required by state statute, for public notification and this publication only allowed for 5. It has been confirmed through the vendor and UG legal that resubmission can be confirmed for either a September 12 or 19 date to ensure compliance.
- B. Board Vote-Date Setting for Public Hearing on Revenue Neutral Rate: The Board voted unanimously to set the Budget Meeting/Public Hearing date for September 19, 2023 at 4:00 pm.
- C. Public Comment: Public comment was welcomed during this time however the two attendees were reminded that they would need to return to participate at the rescheduled hearing date on September 19.

IV. Business

Public Comment. Only one of the two attendees spoke. The question asked was regarding audits which do not fall under the purview of the Library Board, however it was shared that budget and line item information can be found in the USD #500 Board materials provided by the KCK Public Library and other budget information can be accessed via the UG website and contacts. The other attendee chose not to speak.

V. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 4:30 pm by Korri Hall, seconded by Rocki Mayes and carried.

****Next meeting Tuesday, September 19, 2023 at West Wyandotte Library, 1737 N 82 St, Kansas City, KS 66112***

WYANDOTTE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD

MEETING NOTES – September 19, 2023

West Wyandotte Library

I. Call to Order/Attendance

Joe Caiharr, Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

Location: West Wyandotte Library, 1737 N. 82nd Street, Kansas City, KS 66112

In Attendance: Erica Simpson, Jody Boeding, Judy Anderson, Korri Hall, Joe Caiharr, Rocki Mayes, Jim Jarsulic, and Gregory Todd. Via Zoom: Micki Hill, Susan Martin and Melanie Schwartzkopf

Support Advisors in Attendance: Carol Levers & Sam Moore of KCK Public Libraries, Jack Granath, Director of Bonner Springs City Library and Aaron Froelich of Turner Library, Branch Manager.

UG Support Staff in Attendance: Jeff Conway, UG Legal Department, Reginald Lindsey and Adrian Alemifar, Budget/Treasurer's Office, Lisa Rangel, UG support.

II. Introductions & Announcements

- Joe Caiharr reviewed the 3% increase that was requested by the Library Directors. Imagination Library
- Rocki Mayes & Micki Hill shared before the floor was opened for Public Comment
- Chair limited public comment time to 3 minutes and should include introduction by name and address/location within Wyandotte County residence.

III. Public Comment

- A. Danetta Pappert-Piper spoke on frustration of "taxation without representation"
- B. Pat Petty-Turner spoke on the services and impact of our public libraries
- C. Cheryl Yates- Piper concerned about the economic state of the US and asked about audits
- D. Chuck Stites-Edwardsville spoke as a resident of Edwardsville against raising taxes for programs
- E. Carolyn Caiharr-Edwardsville Mayor admonished the board regarding the prior RNR vote, threatened to report to BOTA
- F. Camila Adcox-Edwardsville City Council spoke on the tax burden
- G. MaryJane Grindel-Turner spoke on the difficulty for older citizens to fulfill tax obligations on limited income
- H. D. Beth-Piper spoke on being taxed out of his home

IV. Business

Public Comment closed at 4:40 pm. Following the Public Comment, the Board discussed the issue of Revenue Neutral Rate. Joe Caiharr reviewed the proposed budget, and his comments included the personal opinion that Libraries should not be funded by those who do not use them. Korri Hall spoke to rising costs and making sure that the Libraries can provide necessary services with the current budget proposal. Micki Hill spoke to the importance of funding. Erica Simpson shared the details of exceeding RNR based on a home appraised at approximately \$380,000 with an increase of \$2.68, if RNR was exceeded. Discussion followed that the frustration of increased taxation might be misdirected at the small budget of county libraries but rather might be with the other taxing entities in the county. Discussion included the potential opening of a Piper Branch of the Kansas City, KS Public Library which would also entail increased funding.

Following discussion, Rocki Mayes made motion to set the mill rate for the Wyandotte County Public Libraries PET at 5.44. The motion was seconded by Jim Jarsulic. A roll call vote was taken. After a period of technical difficulties, the vote issued the following results: AYES: 6 and NAYS: 5

Gregory Todd—Aye
Rocki Mayes—Aye
Korri Hall—Nay
Jody Boeding--Nay
Susan Martin—Nay
Micki Hill—Nay

Erica Simpson—Nay
Jim Jarsulic—Aye
Joe Caiharr—Aye
Judy Anderson—Aye
Melanie Swartzkopf—Aye

With the majority vote, the mill rate was set at 5.44

The Budget Resolution was then passed by the Library Board. However, the Board was not informed that they would not be allowed to complete the Budget Allocation document during this budget meeting, as is customary. Board Chair, Joe Caiharr was asked why the second part of the budget process was not taking place. Mr. Caiharr indicated that he was requesting circulation numbers and data. The Library directors were then tasked with collecting information and the finalization of the budget was then postponed until the November 14, 2023 meeting.

V. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 6:10 pm by Rocki Mayes, seconded by Jim Jarsulic and carried.

[Click to view this meeting in its entirety](#) with Passcode: Qg+W@u5?

Next meeting Tuesday, November 14, 2023, at South Branch Library.