

**MINUTES**  
**CLERMONT COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**March 14, 2005**

Attending the meeting were Barbara Wiedenbein, Jean Schmidt, Lois Luyster, Susanna Phillips, Marion Crosswell, Anthony Cardinal, and Joseph Braun.

Staff: Leslie Massey, Bonnie Speece, Jacquie Sehr, Bill Jenny, Sue Riggs, Dave Mezack, Elizabeth Fiene, Julie Sigrist, Lynn Baird, Jenny Bell, and Beth Lammrish.

Others: Wilson Palmer, Tom Niehaus, Joe Uecker, and Danny Bubp

President Joseph Braun called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

Joseph Braun introduced the legislators representing Clermont County who had been invited to the meeting to hear about the Library's situation as it pertains to the state budget.

Leslie Massey presented information on the Library's accomplishments in 2004. New for this year, the Union Township Library will be an exhibit site for a Congressional Art Show sponsored by Rob Portman and is a recipient for a mini grant for homebound services.

Joseph Braun explained that the Library has been very prudent with the use of funds; operating ten branches, no additional tax levy since the '80's, and no job cuts. We have applied for numerous grants (some successfully), established Friends Groups, and entered into partnerships with private businesses. These are some of the reasons why we have not had to ask for a new levy. We have been very responsible with the money we have. We don't want to be in a position that other counties are in. Want to protect the services we have. Our hope is that we can get some insight on how they (the legislators) will vote.

Leslie Massey explained that the Library has made cuts in the last few years and staff is maxed out. Cut technology, staffing, or collections?

Tom Niehaus said that the state needs to come up with additional revenue. There will be cuts in the LLGSF but there will be some 'tweaking' between now and June. There could be a 'bump' of the tax from .5¢ to 1¢, or cut expenses necessary to balance the budget. A lot of pressure in April and May to put the full penny back on.

Jean Schmidt elaborated on the partnership the Library has had with the state; a partnership that was created by the state. Funding used to be tied to the intangible tax but was replaced with the LLGSF. When the funding source was created, it really was unfair to many of the libraries throughout the state. The library system cannot continue to sustain those kinds of cuts and maintain the services the public expects.

Why haven't we gone back for another levy? The Library has been very prudent in its spending.

Anthony Cardinal thanked the legislators for attending the meeting. Leslie Massey will send information showing past cuts and what could be cut in the future.

Jean Schmidt made a motion to approve the February 14, 2005, Minutes as mailed and to include the summary of the February 28<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting in the Minute Book. Motion seconded by Barbara Wiedenbein. None opposed. Motion carried.

**Clerk Treasurer's Report:**

Bill Jenny reviewed the revenues and expenditures.

Barbara Wiedenbein made a motion to approve the February 2005 Financial Report. Motion seconded by Susanna Phillips. Motion was unanimously passed by those present. Motion carried.

Jean Schmidt made a motion to approve February bills paid and accept the following cash gifts, line increases, and appropriation: \$1,323.48 from the Friends of the Bethel Branch for World Book Encyclopedia and a bike rack, and increase line 41000-Books by \$900.00 and line 55200-Branch fixtures and equipment by \$423.48; \$550.00 from the Friends of the Milford-Miami Township Branch for children's area décor and increase line 49200-Branch décor; \$500.00 gift card from Office Depot to be used to promote literacy in Union Township; (since there is no money to deposit, and no checks will be cut, there is no appropriation action necessary for this gift) \$204.00 from Friends of the New Richmond Library for a paper cutter and increase line 21100-General admin supplies; \$15.00 from various Milford-Miami Township patrons for coffee donations, and increase line 21110-Program supplies; \$20.00 from Chris Wick for Adopt-An-Author and increase line 41000-Books; and \$14.97 from Marlene Noschang for Adopt-A-Magazine and increase line 42000-Periodicals.

Within Fund 407-611 Plane Street Bethel Capital Project Fund, reduce appropriation of line 37200-Architect Fees by \$10,000 and line 53200-Branch Fixtures & Equip by \$31,542. Motion seconded by Susanna Phillips. Motion was unanimously passed by those present. Motion carried.

**Director's Report:**

Gifts: Susanna Phillips made a motion to accept the following: For Milford-Miami Township, *Jehovah's Witnesses Stand Firm Against Nazi Assault* (video) from Carolyn Ogletree; and *From There to Here* from Angela McCavitt. For Amelia Library, *Dedicated to the Progress of the Village of Amelia*, from the Amelia Historical Society. Motion seconded by Barbara Wiedenbein. Motion was unanimously passed by those present. Motion carried.

Leslie Massey introduced Elizabeth Fiene, recently appointed Coordinator of Branch Services. Liz told the Trustees about her background and said that she was looking forward to doing new things and taking on new challenges.

The Trustees appreciate the Friends' help and there is no opposition on the part of the Trustees for the Friends to advocate for the Library. The Friends have done a wonderful job.

LSTA Major Grant: Leslie Massey explained about the availability of a grant which will award between \$75,000 and \$80,000 to improve and expand services to people with disabilities in Clermont County. Services would include outreach and homebound delivery. Jean Schmidt made a motion to approve applying for the grant. Motion seconded by Susanna Phillips. Motion was unanimously passed by those present. Motion carried

**Legislative Updates:**

HB 9: Public Records Legislation and HB 77 Reorganization of State Government: Will continue to monitor these issues and present any updates.

Milford-Miami Township Friends received the Good Neighbor Award from the Miami Township Commissioners.

**Operations:**

MayanSun: Allan Edwards hasn't addressed the issue. Trustees instructed Dave Mezack to send MayanSun a certified letter to remove the plants from the library property.

Sonny Lane property: Keep as is until Trustees decide what to do. Investigate the possibility of having the Union Township Fire Department use the house for training.

**Human Resources**

Trustees made note of the following **Appointments:** Gail Roberts, Adult Services Librarian at Union Township effective March 14<sup>th</sup>.

Tuition Reimbursement Policy: Trustees discussed the policy which includes tuition reimbursement at 50% and two years' employment before staff may apply. Susanna Phillips made a motion to approve the Tuition Reimbursement Policy. Motion seconded by Marion Crowell. Motion was unanimously passed by those present. Motion carried. {Policy follows Minutes}

Susanna Phillips made a motion to adjourn. Motion seconded by Barbara Wiedenbein. None opposed. Motion carried.

\*\*\*Approved: April 19, 2005

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President

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Secretary