

WYANDOTTE COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD

ZOOM MEETING

March 16, 2021

4:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Pat Pettey, Chair.

Attendees: Vice Chair Jody Boeding, John “Tiny” McTaggart, Judy Anderson, Korri Hall and Erica Simpson.

Absent: Alvin Sykes, Don Jolley, Jim Jarsulic, Chuck Stites and Micki Hill.

Support advisors: Carol Levers, Director of KCK Public Library; Jack Granath, Director of Bonner Springs Library; Aaron Froelich of Turner Library, Branch Manager.

UG Support staff: Debbie Jonscher, Deputy CFO; Reggie Lindsey, UG Budget Manager, Jeff Conway, UG Legal and Lisa Rangel, UG Administrative Support

INTRODUCTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pat Pettey introduced Erica Simpson as the newest member to the Library Board, appointed by Commissioner Kane.

Erica Simpson introduced herself as a lifetime WyCo resident. As a young professional she worked at the JoCo Public Library and has been teaching for 27 years with the last 15 years as the school Librarian, a volunteer for Piper Fest, Silent Auction and Piper Educational Board of directors’ secretary. She looks forward to helping advocate and grow the communities’ love of libraries.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – John McTaggart made a motion to approve January 26, 2021 minutes, seconded by Jody Boeding. Motion was unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS

Pat asked the UG Budget department to provide tax legislation information. [Senate Bill 13](#) has passed and is on the governor’s desk at this time.

Debbie Jonscher shared [highlights of Senate Bill 13](#). She stated, if it takes effect this year, I’m not sure how it will affect our current budget calendar. Our presentation on the budget will occur late June and depending on what these dates are, it may affect the date we approve the budget. If this were to take effect this year, the following requirement does not affect the county clerk until 2022: *‘the Clerk’s office would be required to mail notification to each taxpayer that owns property within the taxing subdivision 10 days in advance of the public hearing.’* Pat stated, I don’t think it will impact this year, but rather next year because this is a big piece of it; they would need to be notified. Debbie stated, I don’t think there would be any change to any requirements that would affect the board because I think we as the UG, once you set the levy and we approve it, we handle the publication requirements. If I find out anything different, I will let the board know. Pat asked, do you think this will change the timeline for how we could certify our budget? Debbie stated, you approve your budget in your April/May meeting and the Clerk’s office would be required to give everyone their neutral revenue rate by June 15 which is also the date they certify the valuations. I’m not sure right now if that effects your approval or not. I will look more into that.

Pat stated, I hope this will impact how we look at increases for the PET area when it comes to library services. It hasn’t been signed by the governor yet, but it is likely to become law. It could possibly have an effect in a year. If your valuation is increasing from what it was the year before, your notice will have to reflect that. Debbie stated, we have to publicize the intent to exceed the revenue neutral rate. It doesn’t require a public vote, but we have to publish in advance of the budget

approval that you're going to exceed that rate to allow the public an opportunity to speak at the public hearing. Korri stated, so if we vote to make an increase, we need to make sure we have justification on why we made the increase. Pat stated, it could change our timeline a little bit because I'm not sure we can authorize our increase until it goes through this process. Debbie stated, correct. You set your budget and we fill in the revenue portion once we get final certifications. When your certification comes in and it causes your revenue to exceed that rate, there may be an additional approval process. The Clerk's office will be required to get that to us in June. Jody stated, we would have to call another meeting to ratify it. Pat stated, I just wanted to make everyone aware of this. It's another step where we would have to have another meeting in September 2022. Jeff Conway provided a [summary regarding the timing](#) of the September 10th hearing. Pat stated, this is going to affect the UG on the September 10th hearing. Jeff stated, that's just one paragraph of the summary. Pat stated, it may be helpful to get something from the league to get sent out to the board.

Pat asked if Carol wanted to share their budget proposal. Carol presented a proposed increase of 0%. Jack stated, on behalf Bonner Springs, the board asked us to request a 1.5% increase to cover salary increases and it was approved at our board meeting last week. Pat stated, looking down the road it may be more difficult to look at any kind of an increase with Senate Bill 13. I'm thinking about the status for this year. I see Carol proposed a zero % increase. I'm laying this back in your laps to think about how the valuations are appearing. We may want to consider a 2% or 3% increase this year. Reggie shared with us last time that valuations were up in the county so I feel if this legislation goes through, it will be based on where we're at, at that time. Reggie stated, I prepared what a 2022 forecast would look like with an increase for all libraries at 5% and 8%.

Korri asked where does the taxpayer see this amount? Mayor McTaggart stated, it will be on your property tax statement. Pat stated, maybe Reggie can make a property tax statement slide reflecting the library line item for our next meeting. Korri, mine will be different since we live in two different areas. Korri stated, we are only dealing with taxpayers who own a house, not necessary a car or anything else. Pat stated, correct. In the PET area, they're paying 6.129% and in KCK, it's 11.2%. Judi asked if the difference is because the school district is included? Pat stated no. The PET area is less than KCK. They have a larger tax for library services because the KCK Library Board runs the KCK libraries as a library board, but it is separate and distinct. Carol Leavers is the director for the KCK libraries, but she has a budget that is not the KCK School District budget, it is the KCK library budget. It is not services in the schools, it is only in the library services. West Branch, Main and South. Not the school libraries. Jody stated, the School Board sets the levy for the KCK public libraries. They are the governing board for the KCK libraries, but not the PET area and not Bonner Springs.

Pat suggested for the libraries to reconsider their proposals. Jack stated, my understanding is that Senate Bill 13 is modeled on legislation in other states, like the state of Utah. I heard that a lot of tax entities will have a zero increase several years in a row and a larger increase later to keep from having to do those costly mailings every year. Could that be a new rhythm for us? Pat stated, she hadn't heard that but that could possibly occur. Jeff stated his understanding was that the first two years the state would pick up the cost of those notifications and then the locals would pick up after that. Pat asked if there was any objection to her suggestion. Carol stated, not at all. Can Reggie provide us what a 2% or 3% would look like. Reggie stated, he prepared 5% and 8% for this meeting.

Reggie stated, one of the requests was to look at the incentives for the PET district that might help with making a consideration on the budget, but the incentives are not available until September 2021. One thing Mike Grimm was able to do is use a population estimate with a 5-year data set. Reggie presented a 2022 forecast that includes historical, current and proposed funds/allocations, [view chart here](#). Under 2020 we ended with a fund balance of \$200K more than what we estimated. That will help the fund balance going into 2021; basically ending 2021 with \$1.8M which is like a \$400K increase. As we get into the fund balance information, middle of the page, you can see the 8% increase of a \$1.9M fund balance and the 5% increase is a \$2M fund balance. The lower you take the increases for percentages, that means the more fund

balance you will have which is generally a good thing, but the Board of Commissioners has an eye on your fund balance. With my history of being involved with the library board, there is conversation of building a new facility or improving facilities. You do have a hefty fund balance. We're estimated to have a \$2M fund balance with a 5% increase. If you go to a 1.5% or 3%, you will have a \$2.2M fund balance. From 2018 to 2022, you could possibly double the fund balance.

Erica asked where the PET library services fall on this chart? Reggie stated, the bottom half of the document is county library allocation, so we have 3 allocations for KCK, Turner and Bonner Springs. That information breaks it out to the amount of funding that each of those libraries get from the funding of the county library. The information I shared before was a summary level of how much the library brings in and how much we're spending. Jody stated, although the library board we're on right now doesn't fund the KCK library in total, they get their funding through the USD 500, the geographic boundaries. But because the libraries are open to all who come, the theory was; especially the Piper residents who utilize the KCK West branch library, run by the KCK public library, that they can go to any of the libraries, and before Turner had a library, they could go to the Argentine library and Bonner Springs people sometimes use the KCK public libraries. Another wrinkle is we contract with the KCK Public Library to run the Turner Library. Turner provides the facility but KCK staffs it and provides the books for it. Carol stated, we also have the Mr. and Mrs. F.L. Schlagle Library, and we service all the PET areas; Edwardsville with mobile library. Jody stated, it's complicated but that is why they get a portion of the taxes raised in Piper, Edwardsville and Turner because they provide services in those areas.

Judy asked, we have this much money collected, and our choice is to determine how much we want to go to the PET libraries and how much into the fund balances, is this correct? Jody stated, it's all the county library fund, but what we spend is what we spend and what's left over is the fund balance. It's not touched by the UG or the county at all. This board dictates what is done with it. Judy stated, but we're not saying that we want to increase or decrease the amount of taxes collected. This is the amount that has been collected and we decide where it goes? Jody stated, no. This board every year sets the amount of the tax levy. It is unusual for a board; we are not just an advisory board, we are actually a taxing entity. It's called the County Library Board but because Bonner Springs and KCK Public Library serve their constituents, we are responsible for the PET constituents, that's all we tax. Their tax bill reflects the tax levy that this board sets. The county collects it for us on the tax bill, but that's their only involvement. They sometimes forget that they don't set the tax levy for this, we do. Korri stated, on the PET tax bill 6.129%, if we vote to increase it 8%, it will reflect on their tax bill which is what they will be looking at. Then if the Senate Bill 13 passes, then we might have push back next year if we choose to increase the number next year, correct? Reggie stated, everything I'm presenting has the same tax rate. It's based on the valuation of the homes. Jody stated, we will not know that until the census numbers and valuation numbers come out. Debbie stated, correct, and the valuations will be certificated by the Clerk by June 15. Mayor McTaggart stated, but we won't know for sure until the state tells us what they are. Debbie stated, they do a July 1 certification which is what we use for the budget and then once they work through appeals, they do a final certification in October.

Erica stated, I want to go back to what Reggie said about the fund balance being used for a new facility or maintenance. Jody stated, historically, this board has never invested in real property or facilities. When the Turner Library was opened, the Turner School District offered an old school building for the Turner library. This library board used money to staff it and supply it with books. Even though we have a large fund balance of \$2M, it would not build a library, for instance in Piper. We shared with Piper how Turner library came about but Piper never came back with any skin in that game. Erica stated, as part of the Educational Foundation, it was mentioned that maybe no one followed through with it, but it's something that's in discussion. Jody stated, this board would be open to it but we have to be cognizant that the funds from the tax levy are raised from the three entities so we probably wouldn't want to give it all to Piper to build a library. We would have to discuss that, whether we could in good conscience use money raised in Edwardsville and Turner to build a library in Piper. We have always had the mindset that some of the money would have to come from the area that would get the physical plant. Erica stated, our population has gone up at least 40%. I would say that we have a lot of increase and a lot of homes

so possibly our valuation will support a lot of that. Jody stated, people that have been on the board a long time can remember that we did entertain it, but never received a proposal. That would be the logical place for the next library facility but it's probably a long-term plan. One year worth of tax levy is not going to build it. I think this board is open to it. It's complicated and if I haven't been working on it since 1997, I wouldn't understand it either. Korri stated, this is something that Erica, as a board member could get with her Commissioner to get that rolling and to see what Piper is bringing to the table to make that happen. Jody stated, it would be a joint enterprise and we would want to hear from all constituents and the board members who represent them to talk through all those issues. Mayor McTaggart stated, when some of my council members found out that portions of our library tax supported the Turner library, some didn't like that. Jody stated, if they remember, there were a lot of years that they did not pay taxes but could use any library they wanted to. Korri asked, as a board member, how can we educate the people we are speaking for. Just two years ago, I didn't know how this worked. There are a lot of people who don't realize what they're paying for on their property tax bill. Maybe something we can do is to figure out how to educate people. Jody stated, even as we get new county commissioners, we have to go over it again for them.

Erica stated, I was told if there is going to be a little bit of an increase, maybe we can get a ball rolling on this. Jody stated, traditionally school boards have been involved in their libraries, even outside of the school library. That's why Turner stepped up; their school board donated the building. Erica stated, I think we would like to do something like that, but I think we need to get to a planning stage and get a proposal in place. I was looking at Reggie's numbers and was thinking if there's going to be a little extra funding, now would be the time to get a proposal in, instead of waiting. Jody stated, and it would keep the county commission from eyeing our surplus thinking we're getting too big, but we could say that we're doing some long-term planning and if we had a proposal on the table, it might be easier. Mayor McTaggart asked Reggie to confirm that our fund balance belongs to the PET district, not the county. Reggie stated, they were educated again last year that it belongs to the PET district.

Jody stated, we will have to have more discussion in the next few months and be clear on what the legislation says and which year it applies to.

LIBRARY UPDATES

KCK Library - Carol Levers

- Provided an [overview report](#) of monthly events and statistics

Bonner Springs Library - Jack Granath

- Provided an [overview report](#) of monthly events and statistics

Turner Library – Aaron Froelich

- Provided an [overview report](#) of monthly events and statistics

Reggie asked if the board would like to see 3% or 1.5% proposal? The board agreed to 3%.

Adjournment

Mayor McTaggart made a motion to adjourn seconded by Korri Hall. Motion was unanimous.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 20, 2021 @ 4:00 pm.