

Lee County Library Board of Trustees
Minutes of the Special Emergency Meeting

November 30, 2016 5:15 pm

The meeting was called to order by Susan Alexander, the Board Chair. Absent was Jeff Hockaday. Susan Alexander, Bill Tannenbaum, Bill Cline, Sue Porr, Mary Dutton and Ernest Morgan were present. Also present was Dr. Ricky Frazier, Michael Silverman, and Susan Benning. Debbie Mansfield, Sheneeta Thomas, Delisa Williams and Amanda Hinds were also present.

The Bylaws of 2003, Amended Bylaws of 2011, and the County Ordinance passed in 2011 were discussed. The Bylaws committee gave a report. The committee of Bill Cline, Mary Dutton, and Sue Porr met several times with Susan Alexander to work on a revised Bylaws draft that included a review of what was still in effect from each approved Bylaws, revisions were considered and a draft of new Bylaws was created. There was a discussion of the N.C. General Statute Article 14 Section 153A requirements and specifically Sections 261-273. The committee pulled the sections that pertain to libraries from the General Statutes to include them in the new Bylaws draft.

The committee made some revisions including Board member absences and simple majority vote as it related to a quorum. These changes were necessitated because the Amended Bylaws stated Trustees had to attend 75% of the Board meetings. The Library Board only meets 11 times a year and the question was raised how does a Board Member attend 8.25 meetings a year.

The N.C. state law was incorporated into the new draft, specifically Sections 261-273.

The Director stated the Five Year Plan approved by the Library Board and submitted to the state Library in August 2016 called for the Bylaws to be reviewed every three years. As this process started, the County Attorney, Whitney Parrish, was asked about the different versions of the Bylaws. The Director and the Library Board discovered from Whitney Parrish that any provisions of an earlier Bylaw were still in effect if provisions had not been revised by a subsequent revision of the Bylaws or ordinance. The current Board did not previously know it had supervisory responsibility and authority.

The Director said her at will contract was with Lee County and she is a Lee County employee. The Director's reviews (six month, midyear, annual and work plan) had been done by Mr. John Crumpton. The current Board said they had not been told they had supervisory authority.

Dr. Frazier stated several times that he had drafted a new ordinance which would take away the authority of the Library Board to appoint a Director and remove the Library Board's authority over the library facility. Under the proposed new ordinance, the Library Board would only oversee programs and services. This new proposed ordinance would reverse the Ordinance approved by the Commissioners in 2011 which gave the Library Board authority to appoint the Director. The Library Board would become an Advisory Board rather than a Governing Board under the new Ordinance.

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Discussions will continue by the Library Board on this lengthy process of revising the Bylaws. Once the final version of the new revised Bylaws has been completed, members of the Board must be sent written copies of the Bylaws revision 30 days prior to the vote at a regular meeting.

The special emergency Library Board meeting was adjourned.

Susan B. Alexander

7 Dec 2016

Susan Alexander, Chair

Date

Susan Benning

December 7, 2016

Secretary to the Library Board of Trustees

Date