

**Rochester Hills Public Library
Board of Trustees Meeting**

September 10, 2024

- I. The Board of Trustees of the Rochester Hills Public Library held a regular meeting on Wednesday, September 10, 2024. The President called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm in the boardroom of the library. The presiding officer was Melinda Deel.

A quorum of the board was present including Bob Bonam, Melinda Deel, Anne Kucher, Madge Lawson, Julianne Reyes, and Harper West.

Guests included Library Director Juliane Morian, City of Rochester Liaison, Lauren Coleman, and Oakland Township Library Board President, Michael Tyler.

- II. Public Comments

- A. Scott Votaw, a resident of Rochester Hills, shared a list of questions he had about library operations. Ms. Deel directed Ms. Morian to follow-up with Mr. Votaw after the meeting regarding answers to his specific questions.
- B. Reg Brown, a resident of Oakland Township, commented on the fact Oakland Township Library Board did not approve a new millage question to be placed on the November ballot for the voters to decide about continuation of library service. He requested forbearance from the RHPL Board of Trustees and not terminate a contract within the next six months to Oakland Township Library Board and their residents to use the RHPL.

- III. Approval of Agenda

- A. On a motion by Mr. Bonam, which Ms. West seconded, the board unanimously approved the agenda as presented with no discussion.

- IV. Minutes

- A. On a motion by Ms. West, which Ms. Lawson seconded, the board unanimously approved the regular meeting minutes from August 7, 2024 with no discussion.

- V. Treasurer's Report was reviewed and filed.

- A. There was one question on the Supplemental Information sheet where the total for checks and EFTs showed a different amount than the final summation on the Cash Disbursement Journal, which resulted in a discrepancy of \$1,233.99. Ms. Morian said she would investigate and provide an explanation.

- VI. Monthly Bills

- A. On a motion by Ms. Kucher, which Mr. Bonam seconded, the board unanimously approved paying the monthly bills for August 2024, which totaled \$462,991.27.

- VII. Communications

- A. The board reviewed and filed the communications with no significant discussion.

VIII. Director's Reports

- A. The board reviewed and filed the director's report
 - 1. Ms. Coleman expressed concern that a safety incident occurred in the first two days of a construction crew working on a renovation project and asked what counter measures would be used to mitigate risk in the future. Ms. Morian said she will investigate and provide an update.
- B. The board reviewed and filed the statistical report
 - 1. Mr. Tyler asked about how students in Oakland Township are counted and Ms. Morian stated that if their parent/guardian has upgraded the student's card from virtual-only to full privileges it is then counted with the municipality where they reside. If the parent/guardian has not upgraded the card, that student is grouped with virtual student count, not with their home municipality.
- C. The board reviewed and filed the Sustainability Assessment at RHPL report

IX. Committee Reports – none for the month

X. Other Business

- A. Ms. Morian provided an update on the Centennial Gala plans.
 - 1. On a motion from Mr. Bonam, seconded by Ms. Reyes, the board unanimously approved closing early on Saturday, October 12th at 5:00pm to prepare for the after-hours party with no discussion.
 - 2. On a motion from Ms. Kucher, seconded by Ms. West, the board unanimously approved serving alcohol at the Centennial Gala with no discussion.
- B. Ms. Morian led the board through various options and decisions around the time capsule inscription and contents. The board directed Ms. Morian to prepare the contents for the time capsule at the next RHPL Board meeting on October 8, 2024 for final review.
- C. Update on library service contracts with neighboring communities
 - 1. Ms. Deel summarized her observations of the Oakland Township Library Board (OTLB) meeting that took place on August 8, 2024. Most notably, that their board voted not to place a .14 millage increase question on the ballot for November. That increase would have complemented the .39 millage increase approved in Rochester Hills and would have moved to equalize the tax revenue in both communities on a per capita basis. This calls into question the validity of the current library service agreement between OTLB and the RHPL Board that presently called for each party to levy 1.0 mills (Headlee reduced). As a result, there is a need for the RHPL board to hold a special meeting to discuss options and next steps with the contract, up to and including immediate loss of RHPL library privileges for Oakland Township residents when the current contract expires on April 1, 2025.
 - a. Ms. Deel called for a special meeting on September 25th at 7:00pm.
 - 2. Mr. Tyler provided an update from the OTLB meeting that took place on August 22, 2024. Explaining that this meeting was the annual meeting to amend the current year FY 2024 budget and to approve a budget for FY 2025. He shared his

surprise with three significant amendments to the 2024 budget that were adopted: increasing consulting fees by \$20,000 for the OTLB, allocating \$20,000 for a community wide survey regarding library support and increasing the budget for legal services to \$7,500.

3. Mr. Tyler said that he had advised his fellow board members that there would likely be a response from RHPL regarding the fact that OTLB voted to not take action on a millage question. To that end, Mr. Tyler urged the RHPL board to consider two options, or a blending of both, when considering next steps and to keep in mind that \$1.1 million for library service will still be raised from the tax bills sent out in the Township this coming December. That revenue would be unavailable to RHPL if there was no agreement between the parties.
 - a. He requested that the RHPL board consider the pros and cons of terminating the current contract as of April 1, 2026, thus allowing one year of transition to discuss future funding options without cutting off or reducing library services immediately.
 - b. Alternatively, he suggested that the RHPL board consider accepting the current revenue approved by the OTLB and reduce library privileges for Oakland Township patrons in a manner that is commensurate with the shortfall between their revenue pledge and the amount that RHPL is will receive from the additional .39 mills approved by the voters.

XI. Board Comments – none for the month

XII. Questions and Comments from the Liaisons

- A. Mr. Tyler appreciated the opportunity to suggest some alternate options for the RHPL board to consider that would not result in the immediate loss of library privileges by Oakland Township residents at the RHPL on April 1, 2025.

XIII. The regular meeting adjourned at 8:51pm

Anne Kucher, Secretary