

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

August 7, 2024

- I. The Board of Trustees of the Rochester Hills Public Library held a regular meeting on Wednesday, August 7, 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, Madge Lawson, Julianne Reyes, and Harper West.

Anne Kucher was absent with prior notice given.

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

- II. Ms. Deel welcomed Ms. Coleman to her first in-person meeting. Ms. Deel also appointed Ms. Reyes as Acting Secretary since the current Secretary, Ms. Kucher was not present.
- III. Public Hearing on the 2025 RHPL Budget Plan
 - A. Ms. Deel opened the public hearing at 7:01. There were no comments on this agenda item.
 - B. Ms. Deel closed the public hearing at 7:02 and proceeded with the regular meeting.
- IV. Public Comments
 - A. Scott Votaw, a resident of Rochester Hills, inquired about renewals on the statistical report.
 - B. Ryan Deel, resident of Rochester Hills, commented on the strength of voter support for the 2024 millage.
- V. Minutes
 - A. On a motion by Mr. Bonam, which Ms. Reyes seconded, the board unanimously approved the regular meeting minutes from July 9, 2024 with no discussion.
- VI. Treasurer's Report was reviewed and filed.
- VII. Monthly Bills
 - A. On a motion by Ms. Lawson, which Ms. Reyes seconded, the board unanimously approved paying the monthly bills for July 2024, which totaled \$363,628.39.
- VIII. Communications
 - A. The board reviewed and filed the communications with no significant discussion.
- IX. Director's Reports

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- A. The board reviewed and filed the director's report and statistical report with no major discussion.

- X. Committee Reports – none for the month

- XI. Other Business
 - A. Since the 2024 millage proposal passed with 66% approval on August 6th, the Board engaged in a discussion regarding the 2025 RHPL Budget Plan – B (that includes the additional revenue from the second millage).
 - 1. Mr. Tyler stated that he would recommend setting the goal of allocating 17% of expenditures for materials budget, similar to how the goal of saving a minimum of 17% of fund balance in reserve for “rainy day” funds is now a part of RHPL policy.
 - a. The Board stated their goals with materials were to increase the electronic offerings and to bring hold wait times down significantly (which may also require more patron education as well).
 - 2. On a motion by Mr. Bonam, which Ms. Lawson seconded, the board unanimously approved a resolution to adopt the 2025 RHPL Budget Plan – B with one modification: increasing the materials allocation equal to 17% of expenditures, and to levy the full amount of the two dedicated RHPL millages in order to approve and appropriate funds in the amount of \$7,780,376.
 - B. Timeline for other projects and next steps with service contracts
 - 1. Ms. Morian stated that one of the first things she recommends investing in is a new early literacy bus to replace the 2001 vehicle still on the road. She will report back with quotes and a timeline for replacing it as soon as possible.
 - 2. Ms. Morian and Ms. Deel will plan to attend the Oakland Township Library Board special meeting on August 8th to discuss an increase in the fees for library service. The board would like to keep most of the parameters of the current contract in place, but establish a new formula for determining annual fees based on a per capita amount of \$64 per person which is commensurate with the per capita amount of tax revenue raised in Rochester Hills. The fee would be set with this contract renewal, and then any millage factor reductions (aka Headlee rollbacks) would take effect for subsequent years. The RHPL Board would also like to propose shifting the start of the contract to commence on January 1st of each year (in line with fiscal years).

- XII. Board Comments
 - A. Ms. Deel expressed how pleased she was to see that the Rochester Hills community supported the library millage with a strong majority and noted how historic this was. She thanked Ms. Morian, the library staff, and fellow board members for their hard work in effectively communicating details about the millage and securing the necessary support to pass it.
 - B. Ms. Deel also presented Ms. Morian with a gift of art to the library. The artist was Merlyn Braganza whose winning entry for “Art on Auburn 2” prominently featured the

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RHPL as a part of her love of the community. Ms. Morian confirmed, it will be matted and added to the library's collection of art.

XIII. Questions and Comments from the Liaisons

- A. Both Mr. Tyler and Ms. Coleman expressed congratulations to the RHPL on their historic millage win and commented that they are looking forward to working closely with the Board in order to continue to offer library services to the greater Rochester community (including Oakland Township and City of Rochester).

XIV. The regular meeting adjourned at 8:48pm

Julianne Reyes, Acting Secretary