City/County Library Meeting Minutes

March 18th 1:00 PM

Present: Christine Cherry, Lisa Olsen, Ron Merritt, Tami Ware, Phyillis Buechler, Rob Fuller.

Also Present: Joshua PIkka, Kerrianne Boetcher, Marissa Haman, Jill Schramm , Dave Lakefield.

Absent: Miranda Schuler,

1. Approve Agenda: Ware, Cherry, All approved.
2. Approve Minutes: motion by Fuller, 2nd by Ware. All approved
3. Library Comparison
    a. Patrons: Pikka talked about patrons from MPLl and Boetcher talked about patrons in ward county and how they count patrons differently. Ware commented that the patrons seem to be different in each library.
    b. Programs-Pikka and Boetcher talked about the programs that each of the libraries offer.
    c. Services-Pikka and Boetcher talked about services that are offered to their patrons at each library.
    d. Door count: Kerrianne said that her numbers included Kenmare numbers and bookmobile.
    e. Staff- Ware asked about the total for MPL salary.
4. Budget
    a. Discussion of budget process- Pikka stated that he and Boetcher worked together to come up with what a combined budget would look like if they each used 2026 numbers. He stated that this was a projection and not necessarily a full look at what the budget would look like.
    b. Two Buildings as City Employees- Ware asked about the total savings if all employees became city employees. Fuller talked about the savings being minimal if we keep two buildings.
    c. Two Building as County Employees- no discussion.
    d. One Building as City Employees- Fuller asked about saving in automation. Pikka responded that savings would be minimal because we do not have a lot of overlapping subscriptions. Fuller asked about saving in facilities, Kerri said it appears in the Ward County budget, but the tax payers would still be responsible for upkeep of that building unless it were leased out to a third

party. Fuller talked about reimbursement, and how he views this line item as a savings for the taxpayers.

e. One Building as County Employees- Fuller asked about reimbursement to general fund. Olsen answered that the $123,000 would be redistributed to other departments, based on her conversation with Finance Director Dave Lakefield. Haman confirmed that the county does not charge for this, but Ware stated that they might if library employees were added. Fuller asked how many employees the county has,and asked if she felt that a reimbursement was needed. Haman said that they may have to hire more people to keep up with finances and HR matters. Cherry stated that the cost to get people in one building would be too much for the current budget to hold.

5. Space Discussion
    a. 2018 Space Analysis-Pikka talked about the 2018 Space Analysis and outlined changes in the building that has happened. Fuller stated that although there is space consideration, the cost savings should outweigh the space concerns. Olson stated that the people need to vote on this, they will be the only ones to judge the facts.
6. Next Steps: Ware asked if we are ready to take the vote to the people. Merritt thanked the directors for their work. Fuller asked the attorneys in the city and staff to be involved with the attorney general. Boetcher asked what to ask. Pikka asked if the vote would be separate or combined. Fuller stated that we should have MPL dissolve and roll into the WCPL. Olson stated that the library boards might have to be involved. Pikka asked if the financial terms would be a part of the measure, so that each entity would be held to funding the entity. Ware asked about how the boards would be combined. Boetcher asked if the merger happened, if Minot could tax at their current mill rate. Lakefield stated that with the 3 percent cap on property taxes instituted by the State, talking of things in Mills would be confusing since we are capped at a dollar amount. He answered that it would be possible to tax the same dollar amount even if it went to the city.
7. Next Meeting: April 22nd at 1:00 PM.
8. Adjournment. Ware moved, Cherry second.