Minutes City County Library Committee Meeting #3

5/20/26

Present: Christine Cherry, Lisa Olson, Ron Merritt, Tami Ware, Rob Fuller, Miranda Schuler

Absent: Phyllis Buechler

Also Present: Joshua Pikka, Kerrianne Boetcher, Randi Monley, Stephanie Stalheim. Dave Lakefield, Jill Schramm, Rozanna Larson.

1. Call Meeting to Order-Pikka called the meeting to order at 1 PM and took roll call.
2. Approval of Agenda- Schuler added public comment, Fuller second. Approved 6-0
3. Approval of Minutes-Pikka caught a misspelling of a name, Schuler moved to approve with corrections, and Ware seconded. Approved 6-0
4. 3.1 Compare Circulation and Program Statistics- Randi Monley walked us through requested stats numbers.
5. 3.2 Updated Budget and Other Related Info-Monley continued to present. She talked about the budget numbers. Fuller asked about one time costs that will end in 2028 and may be lower in the future. Monley replied that the best savings come from Book Systems. Fuller stated that this budget seems like the worst case scenario. And that more savings could be found later. Schuler asked about the benefits and how that makes it more sense to combine under the city. She stated that the increase that ward county would have to be added is not sustainable with current state laws. Merritt stated that he doesn't see the library combining being as expensive as the numbers show. Fuller stated that as time goes on the savings will show themselves, and that money that needs to be spent can be spent over time. Schler asked Monley about the city's current structure for paying health insurance. She stated that combining over the city's budget makes more sense. Merritt stated that he would like to create a committee consisting of library staff, Fuller, and Schuler. Ware made the motion, Fuller second, approved 6-0. Merrit stated that July 6th is the deadline to bring something back to the council and commission that would fit into current combined budgets. Lakefield stated that it is likely that the city will not be able to fund any library at the same level. Olson stated that we are here to gather information, and not to convince others about how to vote.
6. 3.3 Building Maintenance: Pikka stated that it should be known that the current MPL building is in the flood zone and there is a need to take action within the next couple years. Schuler mentioned that the building costs should come solely from the city. Fuller stated that there should be combined vested interest. Fuller stated that we

started putting the control with the county, and he doesn't see why we should change that.

7. 3.4 Review MOU: Attorneys Stalheim and Larson addressed the committee and clarified some legal opinions on the MOU. Ware asked the county's agreement with Kenmare and how the building would be taken care of. Fuller stated that we may not have a final recommendation by the July cutoff date. Lakefield stated that the public library as it is will likely face substantial cuts in the future.
8. Next Steps- The sub-committee assigned to investigate a budget that does not exceed current spending will meet before the next meeting and bring findings to the next meeting.
9. Public Comment-Melissa Faris wanted to talk that we shouldn't be eager to merge if we don't have money savings. She stated support for WCPL director Kerrianne Boetcher. She stated that she likes having options and redundancy in library service and that that is important for the community.
10. Next Meeting- Tuesday June 16th at 1:30 PM.
11. Adjournment- Fuller, second Ware. Approved 6-0