

**Mountain Regional Library System Board of Trustees Meeting**  
**Location: Fannin County Family Connections Building**  
**501 Fannin Industrial Park, Blue Ridge, GA 30513**  
**Wednesday, January 26, 2022 10:00 a.m.**

Meeting was called to order by Chair Trish Allen at 10:04 a.m. Present: Board Members Nick Wimberley (F), Kathy Tickner (F), John Thompson (F), Carol Crawford (F), Trish Allen (U), Stacy Head (U), Kaye McCann (U), Shirley Miller (T), Judy Slaton (T); MRLS Staff Heath Lee, Vicki Adkison, Susan Shook. Absent: Dionne Berrong (T).

No additions to agenda.

Motion to adopt agenda by Wimberley; seconded by Tickner; passed with no objections.

Motion by Miller to adopt minutes of October 27, 2021 board meeting; seconded by Wimberley; passed with no objections.

No public comments.

Old Business:

Director Lee reported that the paving project at MRL was completed in November by Colwell Construction. The project was finished in two days, and resulted in a new and safe parking area for patrons and staff. The project contract amount paid was \$63,027; a reimbursement amount of \$31,513 was received from GPLS for project costs; this was half of the contract amount. However, an additional 541 sq. yds. of milling at \$12.75 per sq. yd. was needed to complete the paving. This resulted in a balance due to Colwell of \$6,897.50. There was discussion in favor of, and against, paying the balance. Motion was made by Miller to pay the \$6,897.50 due to Colwell; seconded by McCann; (Yeas-5) Miller, McCann, Head, Slaton, Crawford; (Nays-4) Thompson, Wimberley, Allen, Tickner.

There was discussion regarding hiring an architect for the Fannin Library Project. With many details left unsettled, the Board did not feel prepared to hire an architect at this time.

Regarding any matters requiring legal advice, Mr. Lee reminded the Board that the legal firm of Sanders, Ranck & Skilling, P.C. of Toccoa, Ga, had been approved by the Board at the October 2021 Regional Board Meeting.

New Business:

Lee reviewed the MRLS Strategic Plan 2022-2025, its Mission, Vision, & Values. Motion by Head to adopt the plan; seconded by Miller; passed with no objections.

Lee reviewed the proposed policy addition to the Personnel Manual regarding Family Leave. Motion by Thompson to adopt the policy addition; seconded by Slaton; passed with no objections.

Lee reviewed the proposed new policy regarding Social Media, which had been discussed at each county Library Board meeting. Motion by Slaton to adopt the new policy; seconded by Tickner; passed with no objections.

Chairman's Report: No information to report.

Library Director's Report:

Director Lee stated that BOAZ was close to completing the conversion of the MRLS phone system from a POTS based system to a Voice Over IP based system. The new system will be an upgrade, and will cost less per month.

Lee reported that all three of the Major Renovation and Repair projects had been completed. The projects were (1) to install a new HVAC unit at the TCPL back porch area, (2) replace a failing HVAC at UCPL, and (3) pave the MRL parking lot. Approval of existing MRR project applications will be announced after the State Legislature and Governor complete the state budget process.

Lee stated that GPLS will be implementing changes to library procedures in 2022. The changes will pertain to patron fines, circulation practices, hold procedures, and overdue status on items.

Lee reported that all three MRLS counties received funding commitment increases by their supporting counties. Fannin and Union Counties approved the full funding increases requested by MRLS; Towns County increased funding to cover staff raises for all TCPL and MRL staff. Lee plans to meet with Towns County about possibly increasing funding so that service hours may be added back to TCPL or MRL. Lee thanked all the MRLS staff for their hard work, and their efforts to build goodwill within their communities.

#### Finance Report:

Vicki Adkison, MRLS Assistant Director, presented the Mountain Regional Library System FY22 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Finance Report to the Regional Board. Adkison stated that the format of the report was different due to the MIP software program. She explained revenue and expense figures in the finance report, and answered questions regarding the report.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:59 a.m. Motion made by Wimberley; seconded by Thompson; none opposed.

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Trish Allen, Board Chair