

York County Library Board of Trustees Meeting
March 13, 2025 York Public Library 6:00 p.m.

Chairman Tim Steele called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m. and determined we had a quorum for the meeting.

Attending board members: Tim Steele, Dennis Getter, Carol Herring, Susan Piening, Nancy Nicholson, Laura Milem, and Terry Plumb. Also attending: Martin House (YCL) and Julie Ward (Director YCL), Kevin Madden (York County Assistant County Manager)

Minutes: The January 9, 2025, meeting minutes were approved unanimously. Motion to approve by Dennis Getter; seconded by Terry Plumb. The February 13, 2025, meeting minutes were approved unanimously with one addition (motion that did not receive a second) that the secretary will include. Motion to approve by Terry Plumb; seconded by Carol Herring.

Public Comment: Laura Catto spoke about the need for additional libraries in York County.

Reports:

- A. Director Ward reported that the YCL APP users now number 788. The libraries will celebrate National Library Week the week of April 7. Two special days are Tuesday, National Library Staff Workers Day and Outreach Staff Day and Friends of the Library Day

Amanda Antonacci, formerly the Clover Branch manager, is the new branch manager of the Rock Hill library as of March 31, 2025. We are now looking for her replacement in Clover.

Terry Plumb asked about the SC Department of Education list of books that were classified under 43.2170 as having sexual content. He wanted to know how the public would be notified. Julie Ward directed him to the South Carolina Education Department's website.

- B. Dennis Getter provided a report of the revenue and expenditures, noting that the state aid appropriations listed are still under the amount expected, but more has been received as if March 1, 2025. Again, we are within budget with expenditures on periodicals appearing overbudget due to the payment schedule.

C. Standing Committees

- a. Strategic Planning Committee will meet before the scheduled April meeting at 5:00.
- b. Policy Committee will meet at an agreed time when members are available.

New business:

Pam Miller presented a preliminary FY 2025-26 budget, which reflects the county appropriations of millage increase by slightly over 5%, noting an increase of available funds due to increased receipt of delinquent tax revenue, but she is unsure of actual state aid at this time. Other revenue sources include Friends of the Library and interest from the money market checking account. SCRF credit from last year might be available this year, but that has not been determined. Salaries will grow at 3.5%, yet some higher salary retirements and lower salary replacements drop the overall increase to 2.34%. While the ERate contract we were awarded offers savings, the contract may not reduce the cost of hotspots (225

held by library now) given concerns about whether the contract will be honored by the federal budget. The board asked about the use of Hotspots: Who is using? What is the cost? Does the library charge fines for delinquent return, destruction, damage, loss? Major repairs will be undertaken (parking lots, structural boards); under \$50,000 the library is responsible but over \$50,000 the county is. We need to add cameras in some areas. Other items include the SIP2 entry for the new APP, equipment maintenance, certification cost for Pam with the IRS. The bookmobile is not listed as it is paid for with grants and donations, not under the budget.

Decrease in conference costs is not just a reflection of disassociation with ALA but dropping a database (Culture Amp for employee review) that cost \$18,000. Security is provided at the Rock Hill branch for 30 hours with a private security company. Dennis Getter expressed concern that it needed to cover all the library vehicles, not just one van. The board agreed that the capital outlay amount should increase.

County Council will provide the millage rate before our next board meeting.

Dennis asked what our objective is with the Hotspots. Julie Ward explained how the library fills the gap for our counties until the need is met through universal Internet connection. Dennis suggested we need data on their use. The librarians did an informal survey recently at the branches that was sent to board members.

Terry Plumb expressed concern about not providing continuing education for staff members. Julie said the decrease in the budget might hint at that with the drop in flights, conferences, but there are several state resources that provide training, and these are being offered to staff.

Terry Plumb made a motion to reallocate anticipated unspent funds to hire a consultant for a Community Needs Assessment. It failed due to a lack of second. Tim Steele commented that we as a board know what we need—branch libraries in Fort Mill and Clover—without spending thousands of dollars. Terry replied that we need a professional to inform us and help us develop a plan.

Terry Plumb made a motion that we begin every meeting with a brief presentation of other South Carolina libraries' innovative features. It failed due to a lack of second.

Dennis Getter made a motion to adjourn; Susan Piening seconded. It passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:52.

Carol Herring
YCLB Secretary