

**HOMER TOWNSHIP PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
**Board of Trustees**  
**Regular Meeting – April 24, 2023**

President Klunk called the meeting to order at 7:00pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

**Trustees Present**

Jane Klunk, President  
Dr. Phyllis Dahlstrand, Vice President  
Cindy Bochenek, Secretary  
Clare Lund  
Dr. Eileen McCaffrey (7:04pm)

**Staff Present**

Sheree Kozel-La Ha, Executive Director  
Alex Annen, Assistant Director  
Carol McSweeney, Business Manager  
Patti Nakutis, Administrative Assistant

**Trustees Excused**

Kitty Mitchell, Treasurer  
Dr. Rita Woods

**AUDIENCE TO VISITORS**

President Klunk acknowledged library staff, and 9 members of public audience.

**OPPORTUNITY for PUBLIC COMMENT**

(2) individuals signed in and made public comment. See attached.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**ICS – Dan Eallonardo**

Dan provided a construction update, as well as the following reports:

- Status Report dated April 23, 2023
- Updated Issue Log
- Contract and Change Order Summary
- Owner’s Contingency Summary
- Summary and Adjustments

Phase 1 (estimated) completion date of July 31, 2023

Phase 2 (estimated) completion date of Oct 23, 2023

Final (estimated) Completion Dec 6, 2023

Dan departed the meeting at 7:14pm

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Director Kozel-La Ha reviewed the following correspondence:

- A Thank you card was received from Assisted Living residents at Marian Village for continued Bookmobile service.
- An email was received from a patron regarding a recent memorial book.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Trustee Lund made a motion to accept the minutes of the February 27, 2023 Regular Session Library Board meeting. Trustee Dahlstrand seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed.

Trustee Dahlstrand made a motion to accept the minutes of the March 13, 2023 Special Session Library Board meeting. Trustee Bochenek seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

### **Bills / Petty Cash**

Business Manager McSweeney recapped the Statement of Assets, Liabilities, and Fund Balances as of March 31, 2023.

The following reports were available:

- Statement of Assets, Liabilities, and Fund Balances dated March 31, 2023 and February 28, 2023
- Transaction Detail dated March 28 – April 24, 2023 and March 1 - 27, 2023
- Deposit Detail dated March 28 – April 24, 2023 and February 28 – March 27, 2023
- Petty Cash report dated February 28, 2023

Trustee Dahlstrand moved to approve bills and petty cash dated March 1 – March 27, 2023. Trustee Bochenek seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. All in favor, motion passed.

Trustee McCaffrey moved to approved bills dated March 28 – April 24, 2023. Trustee Dahlstrand seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. All in favor, motion passed.

### **Transfer of Funds**

Trustee McCaffrey moved to approve the transfer of \$301,000 to pay March bills and April payroll, IMRF and taxes, as well as utility bills or other time-sensitive bills to prevent late fees. Trustee Lund seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. All in favor, motion passed.

Trustee McCaffrey moved to ratify the transfer of \$270,000 to pay April bills and May payroll, IMRF and taxes, as well as utility bills or other time-sensitive bills to prevent late fees. Trustee Dahlstrand seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. All in favor, motion passed.

## **EXECUTIVE LIBRARIAN'S REPORT**

Director Kozel-La Ha recapped the Director's Report:

- National Library Week was celebrated throughout the week, including Library Worker's Day, Outreach and Bookmobile Day, and Advocacy Day.
- AARP Senior Safe Driving 2-day lass will be held with sponsorship from Gleaner Oak Arbor.
- The Library is currently at 65% of the working budget for the last 8 months.
- Lending check outs are up 22% and customer visits are up 28%.
- Adult Services Manager Heather Colby served as a judge for the Illinois State Library program "Letters About Literature".
- Wednesday is Administrative Assistant Day; Patti Nakutis was recognized.
- Non-resident library card fee is currently \$170 - for board discussion this evening
- April 30 is International Children's Book Day.
- The library continue to promote patron services in weekly email blasts, Twitter, Facebook, social media, etc. A mailed print newsletter is coming this spring/summer.
- Money Smart Week programming was done. Sponsors were BMO and Old Plank Trail Community Bank.
- Per Capita Grant was fully funded based on the Homer Twp. Service population.
- The Micro Pantry is popular and filled through donations and Food Drives.

### **Assistant Director's Report**

Assistant Director Annen recapped the following:

- Vega will be installed soon (new Catalog)
- The Summer Reading Program is currently being planned. *Can You Dig It?!* will run from June 10 thru July 22. Teen volunteers will assist from 9-5.
- Tax Forms were supplied – left over to be recycled.
- Patron Survey (Feb 23 - March 31) received positive responses.
- Blood Drive was March 6 – collected 18 units of blood.
- 10 Chicks hatched on March 25.

### **Other Manager's Reports**

Other reports are available in Trustee packets from Circulation, Adult Services, Teen Services, Youth Services, and the Bookmobile. Also included are Statistic reports for Adults Services and Youth Services.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **Finance/Budget**

Trustee Mitchell was not present to report.

#### **Personnel**

President Klunk had no new business to report.

#### **Policy**

President Klunk had no new business to report.

#### **Legal**

Trustee Woods was not present to report.

### **Decision Regarding Non-Resident Card Program**

Director Kozel-La Ha stated that the Illinois Local Library Act (75 ILCS 5) Administrative rules governing the non-resident law, Section 3050.20 state: a. the Public Library Board of Trustees shall annually decide whether to issue non-resident library cards and review the fee for library services. The current family non-resident card costs \$170, with a limited number that are active. With board approval, non-resident cards can remain at this amount or be increased.

Trustee Dahlstrand made a motion to maintain the cost of a non-resident card at \$170. Trustee McCaffrey seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed.

### **Approval of Meeting Date Ordinance 2022/23-4**

Trustee Lund made a motion to accept Ordinance 2022/23-4 Public Meetings Ordinance of the Homer Township Public Library District Will County, Illinois for Fiscal Year July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024. Whereas, pursuant to Section 30-50 of the Illinois Public Library District Act, the Board of Library Trustees of the Homer Township Public Library District is required to specify, by ordinance, the time, date and place of no less than five regular meetings of the Board each fiscal year. Now, therefore, be it ordained by the Board of Library Trustees of the Homer Township Public Library District, Will County, Illinois:

Section 1: That the regular meetings of the Board shall be held at 14320 W 151<sup>st</sup> St, Homer Glen, Will County, IL at 7:00pm. Section 2: That the regular meetings of the Board shall be held on the following dates:

July 24, 2023  
August 28, 2023  
September 25, 2023  
October 23, 2023  
November 27, 2023

January 22, 2024  
February 26, 2024  
March 18, 2024  
April 22, 2024  
May 20, 2024  
June 24, 2024

Trustee Dahlstrand seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed.  
Passed by the Board of Library Trustees of the Homer Township Public Library District, Will County, Illinois this 24<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2023 by a vote of 5 ayes.

**June 22 Community Fest Event 5pm Closing**

Director Kozel-La Ha noted that we continue to cooperate with the Village of Homer Glen during the annual Homer Fest celebration. A 4pm closing for safety and to support the Homer Fest would pend the night shift during Thursday, June 22 (fireworks night). This was done similarly in previous years, as well.

Trustee Lund made a motion to close the library at 4pm on Thursday, June 22. Trustee McCaffrey seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 7:43pm Trustee Dahlstrand moved to adjourn. Trustee McCaffrey seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed.

The next regularly scheduled board meeting will be on Monday, May 22, 2023 at 7pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Patti Nakutis*

Administrative Assistant

## PUBLIC COMMENT

Attached are individual citizen comments that were requested be part of the minutes. While this written text of public comment is not legally required to be placed in the minutes, it has been included.

Statements do not represent the position, actions, or views of the Homer Township Public Library District, Library Trustees, or Library Staff.

Factual, reliable, and accurate information is always available from the Homer Township Public Library.

**Member's of the Board, my fellow citizens and taxpayers,**

**Do you remember when your mother would tell you "AND If all your friends jumped off a bridge, would you too?"**

**Well, that is what the Library's Board statement of " we are STILL only 1.8% of your tax bill" is. All the property tax levying bodies are jumping off the "property tax rate bridge" Everyone Is jumping off at X% and so did the Library! And of course the Library's share stays at 1.8% !**

**That metric is Intellectually dishonest. AND, It's a lie of omission.**

**So, Let's talk dollars.**

**According to records at the Will County Clerk's Office and, a FOIA request to the Library ( dated 2/8/23), A request I had to make because it wasn't deemed important enough for the approved tax levy amount to be included in Library Board meeting minutes.**

**So, I can tell you that the Library's total tax levy**

**in 2012 it was \$1,985,259**

**In 2022 it was \$2,574,630**

**& This year 2023 ,it is \$2,992,000 (that's only \$8,000 under \$3 million)**

**To me, this is a 50.7% tax levy increase in 11 years....**

**And That's \$417,370 more this year alone. A tax levy increase of 16.2% more this year alone.**

**The Homer township library district has raised the tax levy 50.7% in eleven years & 16.2% this year alone. LET THAT SINK IN. ...**

**Now I don't know about you, but I don't know anyone who received a 50% raise over the past decade.**

**I respectfully submit the full written text of my public comment, and request its text be included in the minutes of this meeting in full.**

**Summited respectfully,**

**John E Walters**

Good Evening Board and Homer Residents,

I would like to start off by congratulating the four re-elected Trustees for the Homer Township Library Board. I truly wish the best to each of you in your upcoming term serving our community.

**February 27th: Last Board Meeting**

When I attended this meeting, it was the first official time that I heard about the 2023 Library Trustees Candidate Meet and Greet. During the meeting, Sheree La Ha spoke about how this will be a great opportunity for the community to learn about candidates in a relaxing environment with some refreshments. To me, this sounded like a great and very welcoming event for our community to enjoy. Sheree never stated, at the meeting, that there would be any type of Question & Answer session at all. The board passed motion to approve the event.

Unfortunately, there was not a video recording of the last library meeting, but now there will be one moving forward.

**March 13th: Meet The Candidates / Special Meeting**

This was my first opportunity to speak in front of my community as a candidate. I was extremely excited to share how much I love this library and my future plans as a trustee; however, Sheree ruined that vision.

There was poor communication from Sheree to all of the library candidates. Our email directly states "There is no formal Q&A by a moderator, this is presented as an opportunity to meet candidates in a relaxed atmosphere." Most importantly to reiterate, the Q&A session was not on the agenda.

I was appalled to experience the Meet the Candidates session. Especially, when Sheere continued to hold the Q&A session after she was reminded that it was not on the March 13th agenda and while John E. Walters publicly had to explain Robert's Rule of Order.

**Today, April 24th: Board Meeting**

Sheree I request that you give our community a public apology for March 13th, Meet the Candidate Special Meeting. Homer Glen deserves better.

I respectfully request that my written remarks be included, in full, in the minutes of this meeting.

God bless and thank you,  
Breanna Roti