Oglesby Public Library Board of Trustees

Special Meeting

August 16th, 2021

President Rich Vollmer called the special meeting of the Oglesby Public Library Board of Trustees at 6:30pm.

**Role Call:** Rich Vollmer, Laurie Guadarrama, Rick Rigazio, Becky Clinard, Dorothy Debosik, Barbara Ficek, Mary Hansen and Director Jill Shevokas.

**Absent:** none

**Guests:** Vanessa Zimmerlein and Marie Ortiz

**Public comments:**

Marie stated that she has been coming to the library for 10 years, ever since she moved from Chicago and she loves how Director Jill Shevokas has the library set up, from the teen area to a cozy reading area that allows patrons to relax and read at their leisure. She works at the Peru Library and is telling her people to come and see all the changes that Director Jill Shevokas has done.

**Discussion of Director and Board Relations:**

There is a problem with trust between some trustees and the Director. A trustee calls RAILS on a weekly basis and a contractor to follow up to see if the Director is following through. Why does the trustee feel the need to micromanage the Director and what is not being accomplished?

Rich Vollmer has talked to Mike Watts who is the board president at the Peru Library, our board does not have a good reputation with Rails. Rich Vollmer has also talked to other library boards as well and they are asking him what is going on with the board? The board needs to be aware that our board reputation is in the sub-basement prior to this incident. A previous director posted on a website that they were having issues with board members.

The board also needs to be aware that the starting salary for directors is $50,000 and the library cannot afford that.

Is there a trust issue and why? Rick Rigazio stated that there is not a trust issue with him or Dorothy Debosik as much as whether the director is being properly led and has been given the proper understanding of what her job is. Rick Rigazio also feels that Director Jill Shevokas has chosen to demean certain trustees.

Dorothy Debosik would like Director Jill Shevokas to explain why she posted what she did on the director only listserve.

Barbara Ficek made the motion to go into closed session and was seconded by Rick Rigazio for the purpose of discussion of the appointment, employment compensation, performance, or dismissal of specific employees at 6:40 pm.

Roll call followed with all voting Aye.

Mary Hansen made the motion to resume the regular meeting and Becky Clinard seconded at 7:45pm.

Roll call followed with all voting Aye.

Regular board meeting resumed at 7:45pm.

**Discussion of Board Trustee Behavior, Responsibilities, Actions and Expectations**

Rich Vollmer stated that this board already has a bad reputation and because of recent behavior, we have sunk to the lowest of the low. If we lose our current staff because of these actions of trustees and because of our reputation, it would be doubtful we would be able to find another Director or staff for this library in Rich Vollmer’s opinion. If we lose our staff, we might as well close the doors. As trustees we all need to work together as a one united board to benefit the library. As trustees, Rich Vollmer suggested that we all take time and reevaluate why we want to be as trustees so that we can all be ready to work together. If there are any issues or concerns with the Director or trustee, those are to be taken to the board president and they will then call a special board meeting. There is a gray area with FOIA and if it is done as a trustee or private citizen and we need to walk that fine line carefully.

**Public Comment**

Vanessa brought up that trustees do have the same right as any other citizen to FOIA information of a public meeting. She is of the opinion that could be considered interference of the Director if requesting the FOIA on the director. It could be along the idea of asking the director to do something on their own. The trustees need to be sure that we do what is in the best interest of the library. That is our role, we have to act in the best interest of the library in whatever we do.

Next meeting is the budget hearing at 615, followed with regular meeting on August 30th.

Mary Hansen made the motion to adjourn at 7:55pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie E Guadarrrama

Secretary