

APPROVED
Grand County Public Library
Minutes for the Regular Board of Directors Meeting
September 12, 2024 5:30 pm
Board Room, Grand County Public Library

In attendance for the September 12, 2024 Grand County Public Library Board meeting held in the Board Room at the Grand County Public Library, were as follows: Michele Widera, Rowan List, Brian Parkin, Trish Hedin, Anne Clare Erickson, and Rachel Stenta. Also present were Carrie Valdes, Library Director; and Meghan Flynn, Assistant Director (minutes). Didar Charles and Klayre Humphreys were absent.

Michele called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

Approval of the minutes for the May 15, 2024 meeting was discussed. Anne Clare made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Brian seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The library bills were passed around for review.

There were no Citizens to be Heard.

Carrie delivered a Director's Report to the Board. She reviewed staffing, facility, and digital library updates. September is National Library Card Sign-Up month. To celebrate, staff have been collecting and sharing "How I Library" stories to promote all types of library services. Numerous events are scheduled for the fall including author visits, film screenings, outreach activities, and partnerships with local and regional groups as well as the school district. The large meeting room will be used for a Friends of the Library one-day book sale later this year. Library statistics and budget reports are on track for this time of year. Discussion followed.

There was no Old Business.

The Board moved on to New Business. The first item on the agenda under New Business was Discussion and Recommendation of a 2025 Grand County Public Library Budget to the Grand County Commission via the Grand County Budget Advisory Board. Carrie reminded the Board that library budget funding is separate from the Grand County general fund.

Regarding the library's proposed 2025 operations budget, the only operations increase is related to salaries/benefits. The main concern with the 2025 budget is that the capital projects account needs additional funding. The Moab library building has multiple failing HVAC units, broken electrical fixtures, 75% of the roof will be "end of life" in 2026, and various other facility needs must be addressed as the building continues to age and receive heavy use. Library staff and the Grand County Maintenance Department are doing their best to avoid any need for emergency purchases. Funding the capital projects account will allow for a fiscally responsible and planned response to upcoming facility needs that the county staff are aware of now.

The budget discussion continued. Carrie noted that salaries and benefits comprise the majority of the library budget, but those numbers are determined by county processes that the library does not control. The proposed 2025 numbers for library salaries and benefits that were provided in the

Board's agenda packet are not accurate – salaries are too high and benefits are too low. The packet listed salaries at 1,005,135 and benefits at 330,229. Based on new information from Grand County Personnel Services the numbers should be closer to 964,000 for salaries and 360,000 for benefits. Discussion followed.

County Commissioner Trish shared that the tax increase approved last year that is now in effect has been hard on citizens. She shared some citizen concerns. Carrie mentioned the Library Bond was paid off in 2023 so the total amount a taxpayer is paying in support of the library isn't as high as the increase shows (because the bond payment is no longer being collected). Carrie stated that the library will provide service at the level it is funded. Statistics show that the library has and continues to provide services to the community at a level similar to other Utah Counties with populations that are three times the size of Grand County. Discussion followed. Michele made a motion to recommend approval of the proposed 2025 library budget to the Grand County Commission via the Grand County Budget Advisory Board with the amended salary and benefit line items as discussed. Anne Clare seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The second item under New Business was Discussion and Recommendation of a Grand County Public Library Fee Schedule to the Grand County Commission for Approval. Carrie noted that no fee schedule changes were recommended by library staff. Michele asked if the fee for Non-Resident library cards should be changed to reflect the amount an average residential property owner pays toward the library annually. Discussion followed. Michele made a motion to approve the Library Fee Schedule as presented with the expectation that Non-Resident fees will be reviewed next year. Anne Clare seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

There was no Consent Agenda.

The Board moved on to Board Member Reports. Anne Clare shared that the library's recent Weed and Feed dinner at the Youth Garden Project was a great success.

The Board moved on to Future Agenda Items. Carrie noted that Didar's first term on the Library Board will end this year. Didar may apply to serve a second term or there will be a vacant seat in the new year. The next Board meeting is scheduled in mid-November.

A closed session was not needed. Michele adjourned the meeting at 6:42 p.m.