

**Library Board Minutes**  
**May 13, 2024**

1. Call to Order

President Walter Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. Board members present: Emily Sprengelmeyer, Maria Rector, Mike Blaum, Frances Beadle and Katherine Walker. Alison Vanderpool was excused absence. Library Director Jenna Diedrich and Adult Services Librarian Larissa Distler were also present.

2. Introduction of Galena's Poet Laureate, Ted Williams

Distler introduced Williams who will undertake some unique projects as Poet Laureate. Williams thanked those involved in the selection process. He hopes to create a book with 200 works from residents to celebrate the 2026 Bicentennial of the City of Galena. Other activities will begin as well. He is excited about his selection and plans to be involved in many unique projects.

3. Citizens comments

Richard Pariser is concerned about the flag removal. He wants it displayed. Gloria Junge has budget concerns and thought displaying the flag should be a priority. She departed the meeting after her comments.

4. Consent Agenda

a. Approval of minutes for regular meeting April 8, 2024

Blaum moved to approve the minutes as presented. Rector made the second. Vote: Beadle – Aye, Walker – Aye, Rector – Aye, Blaum – Aye, Sprengelmeyer – Aye, Johnson – Aye. Motion carried.

b. Approval of bills paid/payable: 04/06/2024 – 05/10/2024.

Johnson asked that a bill of \$402.91 be added to the bills payable to cover the cost of 2 flags and stands for use in the building. Blaum made a motion to add the bill. Diedrich had concerns about the payment. Blaum amended his motion to depend on agenda item 11. Beadle had the second. Vote: Rector – Aye, Blaum – Aye, Sprengelmeyer – Aye, Beadle – Aye, Walker – Aye, Johnson – Aye. Motion carried. Johnson has dealt with complaints at work, comments and phone calls from others about the flag. It is causing stress and affecting his health. He submitted his written resignation from the Board effective immediately and dated 5/8/2024. Johnson departed. Vice President Blaum continues with the meeting.

5. Financial Report – none

6. Treasurer's Report

a. Discussion and possible action on reinvestment of CD 168472 and CD 168471

Beadle said the rate was 4.55% ~~for Illinois Bank and a 7% special for~~ **at First Community** ~~both~~ for 7 months. Walker moved to have both CD's renewed at the rates presented.

Sprengelmeyer made the second. Vote: Rector – Aye, Blaum – Aye, Sprengelmeyer – Aye, Beadle – Aye, Walker – Aye. Motion carried.

7. Friends Report

President Betsy Hansen said the annual Friends meeting would be June 26. Ted Williams will be the speaker at the meeting. They currently have 311 boxes of books and materials that will be on sale. The deadline for drop-offs is June 7.

8. Library Director's Report

The Illinois Secretary of State had a zoom call. Two bills that would include library employees are being sent back to committees. SB 2787 has bid proposals for more training for trustees. The employee handbook will be reviewed by the policy committee. Diedrich plans to have meetings with staff to discuss workload. Library insurance will be with ~~Bower-Bauer~~-McCoy. Two items in the levy IMRF and INSUR somehow got flipped. INSUR will be short but corporate funds can be used to cover the deficit.

9. Board President's Report – none

10. Committees

- a. Buildings & Grounds – Blaum reported they will meet tomorrow
- b. Decennial – no report
- c. Finance – Beadle reported they will meet by the end of the month
- d. HR – no report
- e. Policy – Walker reported they had a meeting scheduled but canceled, a rescheduled one will be next month

11. Discussion and possible action on the purchase of American Flag and State of Illinois Flag

Walker moved to discuss the possible action. Beadle made the second. Blaum said it was a ~~decisive~~ **divisive** issue but we needed to get past it. Sprengelmeyer said it was ~~decisive~~ **divisive** for the board with discussion back and forth and that there was a lot of confusion. Diedrich commented the historical room had not wanted the flag in their room. She decided to retire the flag. She apologized to all. Her concern is that ~~the President does~~ **individual trustees do** not have any approval to purchase things. ~~That is something only the board as a whole can do~~ **Board as a whole approves purchases but does not make them.**

Walker moved to have the flags on display. Rector made the second. Vote: Blaum – Aye, Sprengelmeyer – Aye, Beadle – Aye, Walker – Aye, Rector – Aye. Motion carried.

12. New Business

- a. Discussion and possible action of Lauterbach & Amen Audit Proposal

Diedrich said the audit was best practice. If approved for FY 2024 the company would be locked in for 3 years. Walker moved to accept the audit proposal with a 3 year contract.

Beadle made the second. Vote: Sprengelmeyer – Aye, Beadle – Aye, Walker – Aye, Rector – Aye, Blaum – Aye. Motion carried.

13. Closed session – tabled until next month

14. Items for next agenda

There will be an election of officers next month

15. Announcements – Sprengelmeyer urged board members and any contacts to volunteer for the upcoming Pride Picnic.

16. Adjournment at 7:46pm

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine Walker  
Secretary