

# PROCEEDINGS OF THE BROWN COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

A special meeting of the Brown County Library Board was held on **April 11, 2024 at 5:15 p.m.**  
Central Library, 515 Pine Street, Green Bay, WI 54301

**PRESENT:** JAYME SELLEN, BRIAN ANDERSON, ANNETTE AUBINGER, MARISSA MELI, KATHY PLETCHER, DAVID RUNNING, and JOHN VAN DYCK. MARISSA MELI and WENDY WOODWARD attended virtually.

**EXCUSED:** KIM SCHANOCK

**ALSO PRESENT:** Sarah Sugden, Emily Rogers, Sue Lagerman, Curt Beyler, and Lisa VanHandel (staff).

1. **CALL TO ORDER** President Sellen called the meeting to order at 5:15 pm.

2. **APPROVE/MODIFY AGENDA Motion** by Anderson, seconded by Pletcher, to approve the agenda. **Motion carried.**

3. **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING MODIFIED CAPITAL PROJECTS PLAN** An updated Capital Projects plan, originated in 2021 was distributed. Sugden explained that the cost of the Ashwaubenon project is greater than expected. Anderson noted that the project cost falls short of what has been allocated and the County Board is not satisfied with this shortfall. The County Board won't sign off on the project if there are not funds to finish the project. The Library Board needs to determine how to keep this project moving forward.

Anderson met with the County Executive to discuss the dangers of not approving this project. A call is scheduled on Friday morning between the Library Board members and Woodside board members to determine what is needed to continue to move the partnership forward while funding is being figured out.

Van Dyck summarized that, during the Ed & Rec. meeting, two resolutions were presented. One, to approve an Offer to Purchase (OTP) for \$3.5M, failed. The OTP remains active until the County Board takes action. A second, alternate resolution authorizes the issuance of a new OTP for \$3M and, if all other conditions apply to documents and meets the approval of Corporation Counsel and the County Board, funds would be reallocated and a Library Building and Renovation Fund would be created with remaining funds previously allocated to individual library projects. It was agreed that these remaining funds would be included in the 2025 county budget. If the resolution fails with the County Board, there is no partnership.

Woodward asked if there is money to move around. There is but it would take away from other projects. The OTP is probably not the right document to use – there is no 'close,' and payment cannot be made to Woodside without a guarantee, or timeline for the buildout of the core shell. A different document is needed that explains what the library is getting for their investment. The Board needs to find out what Woodside's expectation is. Van Dyck feels a disconnect on what Woodside wants to accomplish and what the County can do. There is a need to negotiate what should be removed from the OTP and ultimately get on the same page and have a clear understanding of commitments.

The Library Board approval of \$7M for this project leaves a financial gap that would have to be made up through fundraising. It was suggested the support of the Friends of the Library, the B.C.L. Foundation, and the sale proceeds of the current Ashwaubenon Branch as funding options. It was noted that legally, the library owns the Ashwaubenon Branch and sales proceeds will be part of the library's funds. The library has control over this asset.

**Motion** by Anderson, seconded by Running, to modify the capital projects plan for the 2024-25 budget to allocate \$7M for the new Ashwaubenon Branch and the remaining balance to an unencumbered library renovation fund to be used/appropriately distributed for future library projects. **Motion carried. Pletcher abstained.**

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING REVISED OFFER TO PURCHASE – NEW ASHWAUBENON BRANCH Motion** by Running, seconded by Woodward, to authorize Anderson and Van Dyck to negotiate on behalf of the library board and participate in negotiations with members of the Woodside Board. **Motion carried. Pletcher abstained.**

4. **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING BUDGET ADJUSTMENT REALLOCATING CAPITAL PROJECT FUNDS** No action needed.

5. **OTHER BUSINESS** Anderson commented that aggressive fundraising efforts are needed for this project. This needs to be in the forefront. Running commented that Ed & Rec is very supportive of the library.

**6. SUCH OTHER MATTERS AS ARE AUTHORIZED BY LAW** None.

**7. ADJOURNMENT Motion** by Van Dyck, seconded by Anderson, to adjourn the 6:20 p.m. **Motion carried.**

**NEXT REGULAR MEETING:**

**April 18, 2024 | 5:15 pm | Central Library**

Respectfully submitted,  
Sue Lagerman | Recording Secretary