Marengo-Union Library District Board Meeting

Date: October 27, 2020  
Time: 7:30 p.m.  

In-Person with Virtual Option  
Due to Covid-19

Location: Marengo-Union Library, 19714 E. Grant Highway, Marengo, IL

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Jay Filler at 7:33 PM.

Roll Call

Present: Jay Filler, Dave Martin, Desiree Sierens, & Paul Garcia

Virtually Present: Judi Alden, Cynthia Schenk, & Tom Schermerhorn

Staff Present: Sondra Terry & Kailey Sachs

Virtual Public Present: “James” (Last Name – unknown)

Additional Agenda Items

None.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made to approve the September 22, 2020 meeting minutes.

Moved by Cynthia, 2nd by Dave

Yes: Judi, Paul, Dave, Desiree, Tom, Jay

No: Cynthia

Public Forum

None.

Financial Report

A motion was made to approve the financial report.

Discussion: We are only at 18% of our budget used, but we should be at 25% used.

Moved by Dave, 2nd by Desiree

Yes: Unanimous
Vendor's list and new Vendors

A motion was made to approve the New Vendors and Vendors List.

Discussion: Rush Creek Distilling – used for bulk ordering hand sanitizer.

Moved by Desiree, 2nd by Paul

Yes: Unanimous

Communications

None.

Director's Report

Website

A new website was created by Andrea, our previous Creative Services Coordinator, and is being finalized by Jessica, our NEW Creative Services Coordinator. Staff previewed the new site at the September staff meeting and are excited about the ease of use and formatting!

Library Catalog

We have received three quotes for a new Catalog system:

- PrairieCat $16,000.00 yearly
- Biblionix $6,300 yearly
- Polaris $30,000.00 yearly

($ amounts are rounded approximations for recording purposes)

Biblionix is comparable to Follett (what we currently have), but it also has the same things lacking. PrairieCat is the frontrunner because it has advanced authentication that is needed for offering other services to patrons. PrairieCat is also preferred because Patrons can login and have access to other libraries, interlibrary loans, and more. We have had patron complaints regarding our system as compared to others. PrairieCat also has a more advanced search engine.

We apply for the Per Capita Grant every year, so we would like to apply that grant toward this. The Board noticed that there is a RAILS grant mentioned on the PrairieCat quote and would like Sondra to look into that grant as well.

The Board would also like to look into any other possible options, such as what is used by other states, before voting on the new vendor.

Standing Committee Reports

None.
Old and New Business

2020-2021 Budget and Budget & Appropriations Ordinance Vote

A motion was made to approve the 2020-2021 Budget and Budget & Appropriations Ordinance.

Moved by Desiree, 2nd by Dave.

Yes: Jay, Paul, Dave, Tom, Judi, & Desiree

No: Cynthia

Truth in Taxation Resolution

Discussion:

Cynthia made a case for not raising the levy based on the fact that there are people laid off work and struggling to stay in their homes because of the COVID-19 Pandemic. She feels that because of this and that we have less traffic in the library that it is not needed. She feels that taxpayers and the City of Marengo cannot afford another tax increase and that the city is suffering because of other tax increases by McHenry County and the Marengo Fireman’s Fund. She made the argument that because Marengo has lower wage workers that now is not the time because we could have further shut downs and layoffs because of COVID-19.

Jay and other Board Members believe that we have a responsibility to the taxpayers of Marengo to maintain our building. He made the point that it has been 4 years since we did a tax increase and that the increase comes out to very little (approximately $10.00 per household). He also pointed out that we are not bound or required to consider the tax increases of the County or the Fireman’s Fund when determining if we need an increase for our Library District.

Jay further argued that the Library has needed new windows since moving in 7 years ago, the roof will need to be replaced, and we need to switch to a new catalog. Judi also made the point that we have to increase salaries based on the State of Illinois minimum wage increase. The argument was made that we have significant expenses coming up and that the levy increase is needed to support those costs.

A motion was made to approve the Truth in Taxation Resolution.

Moved by Judi, 2nd by Dave

Yes: Jay, Dave, Tom, & Judi

No: Paul, Desiree, Cynthia
IMRF Election

Discussion: IMRF’s Board has an opening, there are three people running and MULD’s Board has the option of placing a vote. The ballot is due December 10, 2020.

The Board would like to review the information and revisit.

This item is also moved to next month’s agenda.

Discussion on joining PrairieCat Consortium

Sondra will look into grant options and we will vote next week.

Board members feel that we should ultimately move forward with PrairieCat, but we will vote next month.

This item is also moved to next month’s agenda.

Additional Items:

Cynthia/TIF Information

Cynthia would like Sondra (and any other interested Board Members) to review a CD/presentation that she personally purchased which discusses TIFs and their beneficiaries.

Dave/Audit

We have gotten our documents back from Brown. We are ready to move forward with the new auditor: Eder, Casella, & Co.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Jay Filler at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kailey Sachs
Administrative Assistant