

MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
DEKALB PUBLIC LIBRARY
BILDER FAMILY MEETING ROOM
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2024
6:30 P.M.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Deborah Booth, Andrea Dahlberg, Kelli Meserole, Gary Vander Meer, India Washington, Betsy Zimmerman (via phone-in)

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Bill Cummings, Rebecca Hunt, Jennifer Salmon

LIBRARY STAFF PRESENT: Emily Faulkner, Samantha Hathaway

GUESTS PRESENT: City Manager Bill Nicklaus, Alderman Greg Perkins

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Vander Meer at 6:34 p.m.

ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO AGENDA

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public comments were made regarding the library's sorting machine, board willingness to listen to the public, the library as an entertainment center, the release of board packets in advance, and whether the City of DeKalb has authority to make changes to the library's annual tax levy.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

A. Approve 2025 Levy and Budget:

Faulkner distributed updated budgets and levy requests that showed a side-by-side comparison of the current levy request and the City of DeKalb's requested levy.

Meserole expressed concern that the lowered levy request may not leave enough funds for future personnel and capital projects. Zimmerman questioned whether a reduced rate is in the best interest of the library. Both expressed interest in a levy amount midway between the two proposed levies.

City Manager Nicklas said that taxpayers are concerned about out-of-pocket increases, and that he is willing to discuss financial projections ongoing funds but could not make promises. He indicated that future years may not have such large increases. Alderman Perkins stated that a well-formulated capital plan is essential, and acknowledged that the library's primary source of income is property taxes. He stated support for the City of DeKalb assisting the library with financial forecasts.

Faulkner suggested revisiting questions of tax rate and strategic planning in 2025. Booth spoke to the need to provide competitive salaries to employees. Dahlberg moved to adopt a levy of \$4,090,131. Seconded by Washington. Motion passed via roll call; 5-1.

ADJOURNMENT

Washington moved to adjourn. Seconded by Meserole. Meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.