

JEFFERSON COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
March 26, 2015 at the Jefferson Public Library

Meeting was called to order by President Ager at 5:05 p.m.

Board Members Present: Linda Ager, Art Biermeier, Leigh Froelich, Sue Hartwick, Dwayne Morris,  
and Janet Sayre-Hoeft.

Absent: Dean Sanders

Also attending:

Library Directors: Joan Behm, Cambridge; Kelly TerKeurst, Fort Atkinson; Leann Lehner, Jefferson; Gerard Saylor, Lake Mills; Kathleen Hookham, Palmyra; Kelli Mountford, Waterloo; Peg Checkai, Watertown; and Stacey Lunsford, Whitewater.

Guests: J. Blair Ward, Jeff Co.; Brian Lamers, Jeff Co.; Connie Meyer, WCFLS; Mellanie Mercier, WCFLS; Pat Jones, Fort Atkinson; Richard Helmick, Whitewater; Jane Colwin, MWFLS; Kelli Rowley, Fort Atkinson; Shelby Schoenherr, Fort Atkinson; Jim Tideman, Action Logistics; Tom Risse, Action Logistics; Jill Ottow, Fort Atkinson; Kathy Ruther, Fort Atkinson; and Amy Lutzke, Fort Atkinson.

President Ager welcomed new member Art Biermeier to the board and all board members introduced themselves.

Public Comments were made by:

- Jill Ottow, who expressed her love of libraries.
- Long-time Fort Atkinson library user Pat Jones who expressed her frustration with Mid-Wisconsin's trio catalog and new SirsiDynix automation system
- Connie Meyer, system director with the Waukesha County Federated Library System (WCFLS) who indicated she'd be happy to answer questions should any arise during the discussion related to library system affiliation.
- J. Blair Ward, Jefferson County Corporation Counsel, who introduced himself and Jefferson County Finance Director Brian Lamers, and explained they were representing County Administrator Ben Wehmeier who could not be there.

**Minutes:** A motion was made by Hartwick to approve the minutes of the March 2, 2015 meeting with one correction – correcting the spelling of Whitewater library director Stacey Lunsford's name. Seconded by Sayre-Hoeft and passed unanimously.

New Business

- A. **Consider final report and recommendation from the Jefferson County Library System Review Committee:** Committee chairman Hartwick thanked all those involved in the library system review process including the committee members; the Jefferson County library directors who attended most of the committee meetings; the system directors of Mid-Wisconsin, Arrowhead, South Central, Lakeshores and Waukesha library systems; John Debacher, the director of public library development at the Wisconsin Dept. of Public Instruction; and Jefferson County Administrator Ben Wehmeier and his team at the county. She noted that everyone had been very helpful in assisting the committee as it researched its options.

After presenting the committee's report in detail, Hartwick moved the following motion:

*Move that we approve the Jefferson County Library System Review Committee's Report dated March 24, 2015, and follow its recommendation - namely that we ask the Jefferson County Board of Supervisors to pass a resolution approving the withdrawal of Jefferson County from the Mid-Wisconsin Federated Library System in anticipation of joining with Waukesha County in the creation of a new two-county library system with terms and conditions to be negotiated that are mutually beneficial, and proceed with fulfilling the other statutory requirements for withdrawal from Mid-Wisconsin based on the timeline outlined in the report.*

This was seconded by Sayre-Hoeft. A lengthy discussion ensued. Sayre-Hoeft asked if the committee had run into any opposition to this idea. Hartwick indicated that Jefferson County officials were supportive, that the state understood our concern for our libraries, and that all our Jefferson County librarians supported the recommendation. Library directors Stacey Lunsford and Leann Lehner spoke in support of the move and indicated that annual cost for membership in the new WCFLS automation system would likely be an increase over MWFLS's but it was manageable within their current budgets.

Morris asked if this was a case of comparing apples to apples which led to a discussion of the benefits our libraries would receive as members of WCFLS. Morris then directed a number of questions to Connie Meyer, the WCFLS system director, seeking clarification. Hartwick, who had attended the WCFLS March 17<sup>th</sup> board meeting, indicated the WCFLS board had voted unanimously to make an offer of partnership to us as we would increase their assets (both in collections and funds) which would decrease their libraries costs; it was, she noted, a true win-win scenario.

Ager inquired about the Gale Courses offerings as part of WCFLS membership and Meyer introduced Mellanie Mercier, WCFLS automation coordinator, who explained that any Jefferson County resident with a library card would be able to sign up for online, instructor-led classes either for personal enrichment or professional development. Morris asked about van delivery for Jefferson County and Meyer indicated that their delivery contract was up at the end of 2015 so the timing works out well as the contract could now be rebid to include Jefferson County. President Ager acknowledged the owner of Action Logistics, our current van delivery company, who indicated he understands the situation but just wants a chance to be part of the process and bid on a new contract.

Ager also acknowledged audience member Jane Colwin, president of the Mid-Wisconsin Federated Library System, who suggested the annual costs for WCFLS membership were going to be notably higher than membership in MWFLS, especially for the bigger libraries. Hartwick responded that she didn't know what numbers Colwin was citing, that the initial buy-in costs might have been included in those, that Mid-Wisconsin's numbers might not include all the current costs libraries had, and that, given the improved product and services our libraries would receive, what counted was the fact that the library directors indicated they could manage the increased costs.

President Ager put to the motion to a vote and it passed unanimously with Biermeier abstaining.

To oversee the process outlined in the approved motion, Hartwick made the following motion:

*Move that we direct the Jefferson County Library System Review Committee to stay in existence to oversee the withdrawal process and when that is completed, a new Jefferson-Waukesha Library System Formation Committee consisting of county library board administrator Kelly TerKeurst, county library board president Linda Ager, and review committee chairman Sue Hartwick, will oversee the process by which we affiliate with Waukesha County. This committee will coordinate the negotiations on our end, bringing in Jefferson County officials for meetings that are germane to them (i.e. governance of the new system structure, apportioning of board members , new by-laws, etc . .) and including the Jefferson County library directors for meetings that are more relevant to library operations. All terms and conditions of the new partnership will be presented to the Jefferson County Library Board for approval.*

The motion was seconded by Froelich and passed unanimously.

Sayre-Hoeft moved to adjourn; seconded by Hartwick. Meeting adjourned at 6 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Sue Hartwick