

Eleanor Ellis Public Library

4495 Town Hall Road, Phelps, WI 54554 715.545.2887

Board of Trustees Teleconference Special Meeting

Wednesday, October 17, 2020, 6:00 pm

Call to order by President Elizabeth Volkmann at 6:00 PM

Roll call: Present: Elizabeth Volkmann, Kathy Schofield, Dawn Gonitzke, Ann Pickart, Angie Carlson, EEPL director Cari Hutton

This agenda has been posted at the Phelps Public Library, Phelps Town Hall, Phelps Convenience Center and emailed to Vilas County News Review on October 13, 2020.

Motion by Kathy Schofield to accept the minutes of the September 17, 2020 EEPL meeting. Second by Angie Carlson. All Aye. Motion passed.

Trustee Training: WI State Statutes 19.85 (e) & (c) and 43.85, LWM FAQ
Libraries: The board reviewed the language in these state statutes as presented by Cari Hutton. Paragraph c concerns employee wages benefits, evaluation, and employment issues. Paragraph e concerns purchase of property. Both of these issues are to take place under the rules for closed session meetings. The Phelps Town board requested the EEPL board meet with them at 7:45 PM on October 14, 2020 in closed session to discuss these issues.

Possible Town Purchase of Accelerator Building and Physical/Financial Logistics of Possible Library Relocation: At the time of this meeting, there has only been some speculation as to what the town will choose to do with the location of the present day library. The EEPL members in attendance at the Phelps Town Board meeting will have an opportunity to seek information regarding this manner. Questions to ask would be: what is the projected square footage of the new library location, what is the timeframe for decision making and implementing this change, and any financial considerations connected with the move.

EEPL budget for 2021: It appears from the minutes of the Phelps Town Board budget meeting held on September 30, 2020 that the following changes have been made to the budget that was presented to the town board: Library – Remove \$1200 for Cell phone from telephone line item; Remove \$5,000 for Library Reserve; and change support to \$6,000. The total appropriation for EEPL for 2021 from the town board would be a total of \$61,667.35. It will be up to the town electors to comment on, approve or disapprove of the town's budget at the November 17th meeting.

The next regular EEPL meeting will be on Monday, November 9, 2020 at 6:00 PM. It will be a teleconference.

Motion to adjourn by Kathy Schofield. Second by Dawn Gonitzke. All Aye. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at approximately 6:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Dawn Gonitzke, EEPL trustee

Summary of October 14, 2020 Town of Phelps Board meeting at 7:45 PM.

In attendance: EEPL President Lisa Volkmann, Dawn Gonitzke, and Kathy Schofield.

Town chairman Steve Doyen began the discussion with the issue of how much the trash removal and recycling program costs the town of Phelps. It was stated that having the disposal company install two compactors on the site of the present day library and town hall would be a cost saving to the town.

It was suggested by town board member Debbie Vold that all the town offices, including the library should be located at the Highway 17 accelerator building for convenience. Steve Doyen stated that the current library and town hall building has many maintenance issues that make repair, updating, and maintenance of that building unfeasible financially. They did consider leaving the library where it is and having the Phelps Chamber of Commerce or Barry McLean take over the space that is now the town clerk office.

There was discussion about providing the T1 internet services to the Hwy. 17 location, who installed the fiber optic line, how much it costs, cost of installing it at the new location, and who provides that service. Lisa Volkmann said that we can find that information and provide it to the town members at a later time.

When asked about the new location in the accelerator building, it was stated that the library could be located at the south end of the building where approximately 6,000 square feet is available. The decision of whether to purchase this building would be placed before the Phelps electors at the November 17th meeting. If approved, the purchase could possibly take place by January 1, 2021 with the building ready for occupancy the middle of the year. No set timeframe has been established yet.

The annual budget meeting for town electors will be held at the accelerator building on November 17, 2020 at 7:00 PM.

