

MINUTES
FEBRUARY 26, 2025 – 2:00 PM
OCONTO COUNTY LIBRARY SERVICES BOARD
COMMITTEE OF OCONTO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
GILLETT PUBLIC LIBRARY 200 E MAIN STREET GILLETT, WI 54124
www.co.oconto.wi.us

(Draft minutes, not yet approved)

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Vicki Gooding, At Large Member; Judy Patenaude, Lena Public Library; Debra Schroeder, Farnsworth Public Library; Kathleen Marsh, Lakes Country Public Library; Dawn Byars, Gillett Public Library; Alan Sleeter, Oconto County Board of Supervisors Chair

COMMITTEE ABSENT: Emily Miller, Oconto Unified School District Superintendent

OTHERS PRESENT: Richard Heath, County Administrator; Katie Essermann, Lakes Country Public Library Director; Shannon Nichola Stoner, Gillett Public Library Director; Jean Grosse, Suring Area Public Library; Joan Denis, Nicolet Federated Library System; Kim Pytleski, Oconto County Clerk; Rachel Pascoe, Oconto Falls Community Library

TIME MEETING BEGAN: The meeting was called to order at 2:06 p.m. by Gooding.

1. Call to Order

2. Statement of County Mission and Vision

Richard Heath, County Administrator, read the mission and vision statement.

3. Approval of Agenda

3.1. Change of Sequence

3.2. Removal of Items

Motion by Patenaude/Schroeder to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was voted on and carried.

4. Approval of Minutes of the November 20, 2024 Meeting

Motion by Sleeter/Patenaude to approve the 11/20/2024 minutes. The motion was voted on and carried.

5. Communications – None.

6. 2024 Marketing Funds

Heath informed the board that \$600.00 of the 2024 marketing funds were used for the 2025 Discovery Guide advertising campaign and the remaining funds were split equally between the six Oconto County libraries. There are no marketing funds in the 2025 budget.

7. County Library Reports

The Board received updates from the Gillett, Lakes, and Oconto Falls Library Directors, as well as brief reports from representatives of the Farnsworth (Oconto), Suring, and Lena libraries.

- **Gillett Library:** Update included a Peeps activity, a grant for teen inclusivity, creation of a job finder binder, human trafficking seminar, a 20-hour/week library aide position, large print additions, an Awkward Art Night, the completion of the annual report, Lego Night, and participation in Career Day.
- **Lakes Country Public Library:** Reported the completion of annual report, new building updates, a monthly origami series, summer rock painting for teens, unit learning for homeschoolers, increased use of the community room, an Innovation and Improvement grant for launch pads (tablets that do not require internet connections), search for a new Saturday hire, plans for a summer reading program, potential summer interns, and completion of the Joan White mural.
- **Farnsworth (Oconto) Library:** Reported receiving an NFLS grant to digitize old yearbooks, an \$85,000 renovation to repair damage from a pipe break and create a children's and teen area break were covered by insurance, and additional funding from endowments for children's and tween/teen areas. Other updates included a floral workshop and the completion of their annual report.
- **Suring Area Public Library:** A tortilla and spices class held.

- **Oconto Falls Community Library:** Completed its annual report, facilitated a 5th-grade library card initiative, hosting a Gnome Board Game Night with a raffle on Wednesday, March 18th from 4 p.m. – 7 p.m., partnered with schools for Youth Art Month, opened registration for March and April sewing classes, planned summer reading performances and Career Day, and organized a Children’s Museum Day for March 3rd. They also expanded their bilingual book collection and hosted an ongoing Friends of the Library sale.
- **Lena Library:** Reported collaboration county residents at the Little Suamico Town Hall on Children’s Museum projects and library card distribution.

8. County Administrator Report

Heath thanked the Library Directors and board members for their work and welcomed Dawn Byars and Kathleen Marsh to the board.

9. Library Planning Committee Update

Heath discussed the Library Planning Committee role vs the Library Services Board, if the committee should be reestablished, how future library structures change requests could be addressed, and a list of reports/spreadsheets the committee would like to see at the next meeting.

10. Future Agenda Items

- Review of Library Services Plan and include requested spreadsheets with 2024 and 2025 data.
 - o Apportionment of library tax to unlibrared municipalities broken out for Oconto County and other library system requests.
 - o Contributions of librared municipalities to their designated library.
 - o NFLS report showing checkouts per library to librared and unlibrared patrons for the Oconto County and other library units.
 - o State Statute 43 worksheet
 - o Pytleski noted that any reports created will have a meeting code on the bottom of the reports, committee will be better able to track relevancy of the spreadsheet.
- Add Nicolet Federated Library System (NFLS) Report as a standing agenda item.

11. Announcements/General Information (No action to be taken)

- NFLS Rep, Joan Denis, gave the board general information regarding the area represented by NFLS and areas of focus; such as grants and OWLS consortium, attendance at the Legislative Days in Madison on February 10, 2025, and how the NFLS could help with the digitization of records and posting to Wisconsin Recollections.

12. Next Meeting Date/Location

Motion by Marsh/Sleeter to adjourn. The motion was voted on and carried at 3:16 p.m.

KP/Date Posted: 03/04/2025