



Meeting Minutes

Library Board

Tuesday, June 7, 2022

5:00 PM

La Crosse Main Library
Auditorium (Lower Level)

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Call to Order

Present:

*Kathy Ivey, Sue Anglehart, Katie Bittner, Aaron Engel, Mac Kiel, Bryan Morris,
Ross Seymour, Araysa Simpson, Jess Thill*

The Chair, Ms. Ivey, called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

Agenda

1. Introduction of City of La Crosse Environmental Planner, Lewis Kuhlman

Ms. Grant introduced Lewis Kuhlman, project manager for the City's sustainability project. He provided an overview and reviewed the project's three phases. In phase two, solar panels were placed at four City facilities including the Library.

2. Review of Sustainability Project

Ms. Grant provided a history and timeline of the project. In order to accommodate solar at the library, a new roof was needed. In 2019 former Mayor Kabat came to the Board requesting financial assistance. This was accomplished with City funding, re-allocating capital improvement dollars for library projects, and utilizing the unspent portion of monies allocated for architecture expenses exploring options for Main and South. At the time it was understood that the library would not be responsible for any additional expenses.

In addition to other benefits of solar, the board was told there would be energy savings and a display kiosk that would provide an educational component as well as clearly show these savings. The communication of various systems exchanging data has been a challenge for Johnson Controls, but they are working on forthcoming improvements in the display and access to the data.

The library has been communicating with Johnson Controls over the past year to receive access to data and changes to the display. Johnson Controls Account Manager, Jeff Van Ess, will be attending the regular Board meeting next week to present information on the status of the display improvements and data on energy savings.

3. Johnson Controls Performance Contract Measurement & Verification Invoice

Lewis has been working on paying an invoice from Johnson Controls in the amount of \$12,890. Lewis suggested a four-way split between the departments receiving solar panels. He has made the request of the other three departments, who have agreed to help. Lewis explained that next year's expenses will be included in the City's operating budget.

4. Portion of Split Invoice Requested from Library

With rising utility expenses and other unexpected costs, Ms. Grant indicated the library didn't have excess funds in this year's operating budget to cover these expenses. The use of Capital Equipment funding was suggested, but wasn't an option. The City's budget analyst suggested the library use carryover funding, which by statute is under the control of the library board and would therefore need board approval. The library's portion would be \$3,222.50.

The board expressed concern about the request given their understanding that no additional expenses would be asked of the library. They also mentioned frustration over budget cuts and the continued requests to utilize carryover. The use and purpose of carryover was again discussed. The board expressed reluctance to help, but noted the importance of collaborating and building bridges. A motion to approve this request will be brought before the Board next week.

Public Comment

None.

Adjournment

Ms. Ivey adjourned the Committee of the Whole at 6:20 p.m.