

YAKIMA VALLEY LIBRARIES

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Public Hearing – 2012 Budget

3:00 p.m. Wednesday, November 14, 2011

Yakima Central Library Boardroom

Board Members Present: President James E. Barnhill, Vice President Melba Fujiura (*via conference call for brief period*), Secretary Jerry Maggard, Trustee Richard E. Ostrander, Trustee Pam Perryman

Staff Present: Director Kim Hixson, Deputy Director Linda McCracken, Human Resources Director Darline Charbonneau, Administrative Coordinator Terri Reeder

Public Present: none

I. Open Special Session

1. The Public Hearing was called to order at 3:02 p.m. by President Barnhill
2. President Barnhill determined a quorum was present.
3. President Barnhill approved the agenda.

II. Review 2012 Draft Budget

No revisions were made expect for the addition of charts and verbiage.

III. Questions and Responses

President Barnhill opened the meeting for questions:

Question: *Trustee Ostrander asked if there are any savings in the budget for 2012?*

Response: Hixson relayed there is some savings with the changes in employee benefits. Everything saved will roll over into Capital projects. If the district planned to fund a project that wasn't completed this year, the funds are carried forward. Other savings include the discontinuation of telephone service at the Liberty building since moving staff back to the Yakima service center.

Question: *Trustee Barnhill asked about PERS and if the district anticipates any retirements in the coming year?*

Response: Hixson acknowledged that there could be a significant number of retirements. The budget will support retirement costs that may occur.

Question: *What is the update about the remodel?*

Response: We will need to have a testing done for asbestos in the public area stated Hixson. We received three bids as high as \$5,000-\$4,000 and as low as \$1,800-\$1,200. The vendor with the lowest bid was awarded the

project. The asbestos survey will be compiled in a report for the future contractor. The asbestos testing could take 6 weeks.

Question: *Should the libraries be closed on Sundays?*

Response: Hixson complimented Melissa Vickers for her diligence to complete a spreadsheet highlighting Circulation, Visitor Count and Computer Usage. The research helped to determine Summitview's usage at times was higher on Sunday than other days of the week. Yakima Central's and Summitview's Sunday hours are very popular. If the trend continues, Hixson stated, we may possibly consider extending Sunday hours and reducing others. She said she will continue to look at this in depth. Sunnyside's busiest days are Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday. In a district-wide survey, many of the Selah residents indicated they didn't want Sunday hours at the library because it took away from family time. Yakima Central is currently open 64 hours a week. Once the Zones are established and the Strategic Plan is underway, we may generate another survey in 2012 to determine if the library district is truly meeting the needs of the community. Trustee Barnhill added the district may look at a 40 hour week for the larger libraries. Hixson said factoring in how people are accessing the library and the popularity of e-resources will change the way our libraries district will do business in the future.

Question: *Trustee Ostrander wanted to know if the Zones will cost more to run?*

Response: The Zones will not cost more to operate responded Hixson. Some of the positions will be grandfathered in and other positions will be open for hire. Human Resources have started advertising for Library Managers. We have already received applications from in-state and out-of-state applicants, and current employees. Director Hixson stated that hiring new employees may help bring innovative ideas into the library district. Once hired, the Managing Librarians will receive a full week of training. The sessions will include job expectations and an understanding of the budget pertaining to their respective zone.

Question: *Trustee Barnhill asked, what is the status of wireless?*

Response: Hixson reported that the wireless connection is up and going. IT staff is monitoring the overall use. Hixson stated it was a priority to retain adequate bandwidth for staff and not allow the public usage to slow down the use for the integrated library system. Hixson concluded in saying that Yakima Central is the first test site for wireless. We may look at trying Sunnyside as the next location as they have been the recipient of the funding for fiber through the BTOP grant.

IV. Closing Comments

President Barnhill thanked the Trustees for their questions and comments.

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V. Adjournment

President Barnhill asked for a motion to adjourn the Public Hearing at 3:40p.m.

Motion: Trustee Perryman moved to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Ostrander seconded. *Motion was unanimously passed.*

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Yakima Valley Libraries Board of Trustees will follow the Public Hearing today, Tuesday, November 14th, at 4:00 p.m. in the Yakima Central Library's Boardroom. The adoption of the 2012 Budget will be on the agenda.

Respectfully,



H.E. Jerry Maggard
Secretary