

**Belleville Area District Library
Meeting Minutes
December 10, 2024**

1. **Call to Order:** Acting Chair Linda Priest called the meeting to order at 7:33 pm.
2. **Roll Call:** The following board members were present: Joy Cichewicz, Dan Fleming, John Juriga, Linda Priest, and Tanya Stoudemire. Absent and excused: Alma Hughes-Grubbs and Sharon Peters. Also present: Library Director Mary Jo Suchy.
3. **Approve Agenda:**
Motion by Juriga, seconded by Stoudemire, to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.
4. **Approve November 12, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes:** Motion by Stoudemire, seconded by Cichewicz, to approve the November 13, 2024, minutes as presented. The motion carried unanimously.
5. **Public Comments:** Barbara Miller announced that Mary Jo Suchy won the Belleville Area Council for the Arts raffle.
6. **Approve 2025 Regular Board Meeting Dates:** Motion by Cichewicz, seconded by Stoudemire, to approve the 2025 regular board meeting dates as presented. The motion carried unanimously. (The November meeting will be held on November 18 due to Veterans Day falling on November 11).
7. **Approve 2025 Library Closure Dates:** Motion by Juriga, seconded by Fleming, to approve the 2025 library closure dates as presented. The motion carried unanimously.
8. **Committee Reports**
 - A. **Building:** O'Neal Construction will begin meeting with contractors regarding the library's upcoming projects (automated restroom doors, bathroom vape detectors, and black tread on the circular stairs). The other flagpole light will be replaced in the spring when the weather has improved.
 - B. **Bylaws:** No report.
 - C. **Finance:** No report.
 - D. **Marketing:** No report.
 - E. **Personnel:** Director's evaluations are due before the next board meeting.
 - F. **Policy:** No report.
 - G. **Art:** No report.
9. **Approve Accounts Payable:** Motion by Cichewicz, seconded by Stoudemire, to approve the accounts payable as presented. The motion carried unanimously.
10. **Director's Report:** See attached. The Library of Michigan reported to directors of Wayne County libraries that penal fines have been incorrectly distributed by the County over the past ten years. The Belleville Area District Library has been both overpaid and underpaid

during this time period, however its total overpayment equals \$139,087.48. The Library of Michigan has proposed a repayment schedule where future penal fines would be applied to offset the overpayments. The Library of Michigan encourages the libraries in Wayne County to agree to indicate their willingness to participate in a settlement agreement by January 31, 2025. Participation in a settlement solution does not bind the library to approval of the plan. Linda Priest read a statement from Sharon Peters indicating her interest in moving forward with negotiations and her belief that Wayne County should contribute financially to the final resolution. The library board will take up this issue at the next meeting.

Suchy also thanked John Juriga for his stalwart presence and moral support over all of his years as a board member.

11. Trustee Comments:

Linda Priest read a statement from Sharon Peters acknowledging John Juriga's service on the board. Peters noted that John Juriga has been an outstanding advocate for the library in general and specifically for the construction of the new library. His involvement in the community has been an asset to the board.

Cichewicz – Noted that John has been a huge asset to the building committee. She will miss his sense of humor at the meetings.

Stoudemire – Enjoyed having John on the board and doesn't know if we would have gotten a new library without him.

Fleming – Appreciated John's leadership at the meetings and his attention to detail.

Juriga – Shared what he learned in the Boy Scouts...to always leave your campground better than you found it. This is advice that he has used throughout his life and he observed that this is what the board has done for the library.

12. Chair Comments:

Priest – Will miss John at the meetings and has appreciated his levity and ability to get down to work.

13. Adjournment:

Motion by Juriga, seconded by Fleming, to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:12 pm.