

**Minutes of the Special Meeting of the
MidPointe Library System Board of Trustees
Monroe Library, Rothwell Room
Tuesday, December 11, 2024, 3:00 p.m.**

I Call to Order by President

Mrs. Stewart, President, called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

II Opening Exercise

III Roll Call

The roll was called, and the following members were present:

Mrs. Deborah Houser, Mr. Michael Huff, Mr. Bill Jones, and Mrs. Eleanor Stewart.

Those absent were: Mr. Andrew Dunn and Mr. Jay Marlow

Also present were: Mr. Travis Bautz, Library Director; Ms. Rebekah Brate, Monroe Branch Manager; Mrs. Emily Foote, Fiscal Officer; Ms. Candy Heffner, PAC Treasurer; Ms. Cari Hillman, Community Engagement Director; Mrs. Brielle Maynor, Public Services Director; and Ms. Kathy Stengel, Human Resources Director.

IV Adoption of Agenda

Mrs. Stewart motioned, seconded by Mrs. Houser, to approve the agenda as presented.

"Aye" Houser, Huff, Jones, Stewart

"Nay" None

Motion Approved 24-76

V Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Mr. Tim Essex arrived at 3:10 pm

VI November 2024 Levy Review/May 2025 Planning:

Mr. Bautz reviewed a packet of information from the November 2024 levy initiative. Ms. Hillman added that she kept watch on social media feedback throughout the campaign and the overall reaction was that folks did not like the continuous aspect of the levy and the levy millage was too high. She mentioned that precinct results showed that West Chester was 50/50; Liberty was about the same; Middletown turnout was low; Trenton turnout was low; and Madison and Seven Mile also had a low turnout. Mr. Bautz added that he received a lot of feedback that the continuing option was not favored and that the elected officials in our service area wanted to be kept informed about the levy. He contacted the elected officials and let them know we

were looking at putting a levy on the ballot in May which would have a 5-year term with a smaller millage. He reviewed the officials feedback in the packet. Mrs. Foote reviewed three different levy scenarios, all with 5-year cycles and how much revenue each option would generate. A replacement levy (option 1), which would bring in an estimated \$5.7 million, amounts to \$26.25 for each \$100,000 of the auditor’s appraised value, and would only keep current services and the needed maintenance plan would need to be conservative; a replacement levy (option 2) with a .25 millage increase which would bring in an estimated \$7.6 million, amounts to \$35.00 for each \$100,000 of the auditor’s appraised value, and could include some additional services and a prioritized maintenance plan; and a renewal (option 3) with a .75 millage increase which would bring in approximately \$6.9 million, and amounts to \$32.13 for each \$100,000 of the auditor’s appraised value. The board discussed when the current levy dollars would be depleted; the timing of putting a levy on the ballot; the maintenance plan with priorities based on needs, such as a new roof, and lower priorities; that a cash balance of \$2 million is needed to pay bills; we are not currently meeting the boards reserve philosophy; that the Liberty project did not cost as much as originally estimated; the amount each levy scenario would cost the taxpayer; to keep the levy ask conservative; the wording on the ballot; that a quiet campaign like what was done in November would not be practicable for a spring election, it would need to be an active campaign with advertising and mailings; and the benefits of doing a replacement levy.

VII Resolution-Declaring the Necessity of Levying an Additional Tax

Mrs. Stewart asked for a motion to approve a resolution of the Board of Library Trustees of the MidPointe Library district declaring the necessity of levying a replacement of a tax for a term of five years (option 1 above). Mr. Huff motioned, seconded by Mrs. Stewart, to approve the resolution.

“Aye” Essex, Houser, Huff, Jones, Stewart

"Nay" None

Motion Approved 24-77

VIII Board Comments

Mr. Jones inquired about the status of the remainder of the Liberty parcel that is not yet being developed and if it has been sold. Mr. Bautz responded that it had not been sold. Mr. Jones suggested that the land could possibly be used to house the bookmobile and vehicle fleet. This was discussed and determined that constructing our own building would not be as advantageous to the current rent arrangement.

IX Adjournment

Mrs. Stewart adjourned the meeting at 3:35 p.m.

24-78

President

Secretary