

**Minutes of the Elk Rapids District Library Board of Trustees
July 6, 2023
2:00pm SPECIAL Meeting
held at the Government Center, 315 Bridge St, Elk Rapids, MI 49629**

approved 7/13/2023

Note: Minutes follow the agenda

Call to Order: By President Tom Stephenson at 2:09 pm

Members Present: Liz Atkinson, Dick Hults, Julia Pollister Amos, Tom Stephenson, Mike Weber and Nancy Wonch

Members absent : Dan McAuliffe and Emily Petrovich

Also Present: Director Pam Williams, Friends Chair Camille Campbell and one person in the audience

1. Approval of the Agenda

MOTION: by Wonch/Hults to approve the agenda
Motion Carried

2. Public Comment - none

3. Old Business

Consideration of purchase agreement for Traverse Bay Manufacturing building

Copies of current draft of Option to Purchase were given to each board member.

MOTION: by Pollister Amos/Wonch to consider the purchase of 180 days of time for \$35,000.00 to allow us to do due diligence and consider public input on potential purchase of Traverse Bay Manufacturing Building at 8980 Cairn Hwy, Elk Rapids.

Stephenson stated that most board members had toured the building and were impressed with the possibilities but a considerable amount of due diligence needs to be completed before we could recommend a purchase. Examples such as having the building inspected by professionals who can evaluate its construction, having architectural drawings, a potential Phase II environmental completion, a title search, public hearings etc. This meeting is strictly for discussion and it will be on the agenda for the next regular meeting on July 13, 2023.

Weber asked about communication with the public as many have expressed a concern about vacating the current location. It was explained that since the Village of Elk Rapids owns the building that they would be the ones to determine any future use should the Library decide to move out. If the board approves this Option to Purchase then more public discussions can take place. If we do not exercise the full option to purchase then we lose the \$35,000.00.

Hults asked Camille Campbell who is the Chair of the Friends and is also on the building committee to share the things she felt should also be dealt with in the draft Option to Purchase. She recommended a walk through before closing to confirm that all of the contents had been removed from the building and the +/- 3 acre property.

A question was asked : Can we raise the funds needed for the full \$1,200.00.00 purchase as well as the expense required to convert the building to a Library? Discussion was that it was doable if former donors came back and current donors approved the use of the funds they donated.

Wonch stated that she had met Kelli Mengebier who is affiliated with a local fundraising firm. Stephenson commented that there will be discussion about hiring a professional fundraising firm to assist with fundraising should the board and public agree to proceed.

4. Public Comment – Ann McPhail said that she appreciated that we were considering public communication

5. Board Comments – general comments were that this building has a great deal of potential not just for the Library needs but also for potential community use spaces.

6. Adjourn - by order of the chair at 2:33pm

Respectfully,

Julia Pollister Amos, Secretary Elk Rapids District Library Board.