

## Minutes

Northland Cooperative Library Board Meeting

Nov. 18, 2008

Boyne District Library

Members Present: Grace Micketti, Marcia Monette, Marcia Armstrong, Hugh Conklin, Eunice Teel, Barbara Steele, and Phil Curtiss

Members Absent: Karen Heide, Judy Olson

Staff: Roger Mendel

Guests: Cliff Carey

Meeting called to order by Board President Grace Micketti at 10 a.m. She welcomed new board member Eunice Teel to the board.

Public Comment: None

Approval of Agenda: With the addition of two items: 1. Unemployment balance due; and 2. MERS cost of living increase, the agenda was accepted as presented. Motion by Marcia Monette, second by Marica Armstrong.

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Marcia Armstrong and a second by Marcia Monette to approve the minutes from the Oct. 16, 2008 meeting. Motion passed

Financial Report: Roger Mendel presented financial report. He reported the annual audit has started and a report should be made at the board's January 2009 meeting.

Unemployment Balance Due: Roger Mendel reported that a letter was received from the state claiming Northland Cooperative owed \$13,041.67 in unemployment to the state. The reason for the charge was related to the employees laid off when Northland reorganized. Marcia Armstrong moved and Marcia Monette seconded a motion to pay the past due balance of \$13,041.67 from Northland's fund balance. Motion passed.

MERS Cost of Living Increase: The board considered a cost of living increase proposal from MERS of 2 percent for the four Northland Co-op's retirees. The cost of the increase for one year is \$13,987 and would be effective on Jan. 1, 2009. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Hugh Conklin and seconded by Marcia Armstrong not to approve a 2 percent increase. Motion passed.

Advisory Committee Report: Cliff Carey, director of the Boyne District Library, reported on the advisory council meeting. The main topic of the meeting was the "non-resident" issue. There was also discussion of the state aide rule regarding the requirement of a full-time cooperative director. Cliff read a letter from Petoskey Library Director Karen Sherrard advocating a change in the rules to allow a part-time director.

Board meeting Calendar: The board set meeting dates for 2009. They are Jan 13, March 24, May 19, Aug. 20, and Sept. 24. Motion to approve the 2009 calendar was made by Phil Curtiss and seconded by Eunice Teel.

Discussion of Northland Cooperative's Future: After much discussion, the board passed a motion by Phil Curtiss and seconded by Marcia Monette to send a letter to the state librarian recommending a change in the state aide rule to allow for part-time cooperative director. The motion passed. Roger will draft a letter and send it to all board members for their input prior to sending it to the state librarian.

The board also passed a motion by Marcia Armstrong and seconded by Marcia Monette to appoint a subcommittee to develop plans and recommendations for the future of Northland. The committee will consist of board members Hugh Conklin and Barbara Steele along with co-op director Roger Mendel and representatives from the advisory council. Prior to the subcommittee's first meeting, the board asked Roger to check with the state librarian to determine if she would be willing to grant a waiver from the full-time director rule to Northland for the fiscal year beginning in October 2009.

Meeting was adjourned at 12 p.m.