

TCPL Executive Committee
Minutes of Special Meeting, November 8, 2024

Called by Taetzsch, Murphy and Chabot pursuant to By-laws Article V.1 and IV.1.a to:

- Consider issues about the TCPL Budget,
- Consider correspondence received from the FLLS about Central Library status and other issues
- Consider topics raised in an email received on November 3, 2024
- Consider reports from the Finance & Personnel Committee and Nominating Committee
- Consider, in executive session, two personnel matters, possible litigation matters and collective bargaining
- Consider the agenda for our November 12, 2024 regular meeting

Attending: Chabot, Taetzsch, Murphy
Absent: Sidle

Also Attending: Daryl Long, Marli Stahler (Board Members), Rich John (Legislature Liaison)

- Mary McKeon (TCPL), Kerry Barnes (TCPL Foundation)
- 9 members of the public signed in
(not all attendees signed in or were identified)

Called to Order at 4:04p with a quorum of three of four members present

- 1) Approval of Agenda – moved by Taetzsch, seconded by Chabot – unanimously approved
- 2) Public Comment – Chabot read TCPL’s Public Comment policy
 - a. Shelby Buche – spoke on budget issues
 - b. Regina DeMauro – spoke on budget issues
 - c. Sophia McKissick – read a statement from Jeremy Jordan focused on budget issues
- 3) TCPL Budget and initial report from the Finance & Personnel Committee
 - Taetzsch reported on the October 29, 2024 Finance & Personnel Committee (FPC) meeting on both the budget and an October 18, 2024 letter received from the Finger Lakes Library System (FLLS)
 - FPC reviewed budget projections for 2025, detailed staffing recommendations and how to maintain staffing to continue in TCPL’s status as the FLLS Central Library. FPC is proceeding on the budget with a priority to avoid reductions in force.
 - Taetzsch emphasized again that the TCPL budget would have to increase by around \$300,000 to maintain its current level of spending because of known cost increases (e.g. increased health insurance costs). The further 5% reduction requested by the County (around a \$200,000 cut) means that TCPL’s total funding shortfall is around \$500,000.
 - Part of the County’s budget issue results from the County’s move to a 25% fund balance – the same fund balance target set by TCPL in its policy. The point several legislators have made in conversations with TCPL Board members is that TCPL should run with a lower fund balance to help the County achieve that goal.
 - In general, the TCPL position has been to look for ways to cooperate with the County rather than confront it. Thus, while some have wanted to mount a public campaign to insist

on increasing the TCPL budget, TCPL officers recognize that the fund balance issue is part of what is driving the discussion.

- FPC is doing a careful review of the entire budget and is carefully considering a number of ideas including some mentioned in public comment, such as drawing down on the fund balance, considering retirement incentives, a hiring freeze, reviewing other expenses – all designed to allow TCPL to preserve its staff and their knowledge since, as already stated, avoiding reductions in force is one of the primary budget goals.

- 4) Correspondence received from the FLLS about Central Library status and other issues
 - Taetzsch reported FPC has been working on a draft response with the goal of sending it to FLLS by the date FLLS requested
 - FLLS had requested confidential treatment of its correspondence which has been shared with the Board. The request for confidentiality is challenging because of Open Meeting Law issues.
 - in general, FPC believed some of the issues raised were valid concerns to be addressed and other may stem from misunderstandings or misinformation and TCPL will act to share accurate information with FLLS on those matters
- 5) Email received on November 3, 2024
 - an email was sent to a Legislator expressing a number of concerns.
 - we noted TCPL website includes an email for the President and that email can and should be used to report concerns or comments. Such concerns or comments can also (as stated in TCPL's policy) be shared with the Director.
 - because TCPL wants to ensure concerns are brought to its attention, it is keeping this communication confidential. In general, it raises a number of concerns about TCPL procedures which are being shared with the Board
- 6) Report from the Nominating Committee
 - Chabot noted that the committee is working both on a slate of officers for 2025 and on candidates to replace both Taetzsch and Murphy who are ending their second terms on December 31, 2024 and cannot be renominated. Interested persons are welcome to make suggestions and the Committee's goal is to have a voteable slate prepared for the Board's November 19 meeting.
- 7) Agenda for the Executive Committee's regular November 12, 2024 meeting
 - Murphy noted that this meeting would be the regular quarterly meeting with officer reports and reports on the work of various committees
 - Taetzsch requested that the agenda include a budget discussion and responses to communications received
- 8) Executive session on two personnel matters, possible litigation matters and collective bargaining – at 4:42pm, Taetzsch moved that the Committee go into executive session to discuss these topics, Murphy seconded and the motion passed unanimously, inviting Long, Stahler and John to remain.

At 5:51, Taetzsch moved to end the executive session, Murphy seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

At 5:52, Murphy moved to adjourn the meeting, Taetzsch seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Submitted,
Liam G.B. Murphy, Secretary