Emergency Library Board Meeting in regards to the recent pandemic outbreak of COVID-19

March 16th 2020

The emergency meeting was called to order by Tracy Young at 6:54pm at the Weldon Public Library,

The roll call was conducted by President Tracy Young. Present were Tracy Young, Amanda Walters, Bob Walters, Susan Westray, Christi Baker, and Alycia Brockman. Pat Brown was absent. Library Director Lori Rich was also present.

Tracy shared handouts of her findings and thoughts which included:

● 108 positive cases confirmed in Illinois per Illinois Public Health record.

● We are a working community which presents a higher risk of contracting and spreading the virus.

● In her professional opinion, remaining open would be hurting the community rather than helping considering the manner in which this virus is spread.

● Virus remains active for up to 72 hours on contaminated materials.

● There is currently no good way to decontaminate materials.

● How can we regularly decontaminate materials within a budget?

● Would like to remain open during periods of time to aid in questions on how to access our online books.

● Would recommend not accepting returns until a later date.

● Give no date that the closure will be in place and discuss the possibility of filing for unemployment with the employees.

● Pay the employees until March 30th while the library is closed and then reaccess.

● Give Lori her vacation time back to use another time.

● We need to do our part by closing.

The floor was opened up for discussion. Library Director Lori Rich doesn’t see a huge risk with not many patrons circulating. She is constantly sanitizing throughout each day. She feels the chances of infection are low and is willing and able to serve the community by remaining open. She still has plenty of work to do even without being open to the public, i.e. the Summer Reading Program. Interlibrary loan has currently ceased. Christi Baker is in agreement in regards to paying the employees, but closing as to not put the public at risk. She would be fine with Lori and only Lori working as to not potentially spread the virus to the other two employees and their families.

The following programs were cancelled: Storytime and Ladies Night.

The regularly scheduled library board meeting to be held on March 17, 2020 is cancelled.

The early out program scheduled for April 1, 2020 will be reevaluated at a later date.

It was discussed which days to be open to answer questions from the public. In order to protect the employees while still serving the community it was thought one day would suffice, Tuesdays 1p-4p. Patrons can contact via telephone and/or email. We also have the facebook page.

Tracy Young provided a suggested statement of closure and advised to not set a specific closure time frame.

Alycia Brockman presented we close the library until further notice, pay the employees through March 30th, 2020, not accept any returns, cancel any programs scheduled in March, have one employee staffed on Tuesdays from 1p-4p with the plan to reassess the situation as more information becomes available. Bob made a motion and Christi seconded. The vote was 6-0.

Having no other business a motion was made by Bob Walters and seconded by Christi Baker to adjourn. The vote was 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 7:53pm.

Respectfully submitted, Trustee/Acting Secretary, Alycia Brockman