

Submitted by Colleen Schwanz – Vice President
Alta Library Minutes From August 17, 2023
At: Alta Community Library
1009 S. Main Street, Alta IA 51002
Time: 5:15 p.m.

Call To Order: The meeting was called to order by President Bruce Hinkeldey at 5:15 p.m.

Present: Director, Gigi Nelson, Board: Bruce Hinkeldey, Colleen Schwanz, Willa Casstevens and Colleen Carlson-Konop. Absent: Anna Garcia, Anne Lehl.

Visitors: Bonnie McKewon, Gary Armstrong, Kevin Walsh, Kim Walsh, Desi Suter, Pam Henderson, Denny Olhausen, Amy Mikos, Janet Frantz, Victoria Hansen, Reporter from Storm Lake Times-Pilot

Corrections and Approval of August Agenda – No changes. Motion to approve by Colleen Schwanz, seconded by Willa. Approved by all and carried.

Citizen Input: Victoria Hansen: Victoria stated that she feels all administrators, teachers and parents do know what is age appropriate. She asked that we all come together so that the public library is not closed, not even for a week. The public library is too important to the community.

Bonnie McKewon – Northwest Iowa State Library Representative - Bonnie introduced herself and her role. Iowa has 542 public libraries, there are 3 in northwest Iowa that are combined like us. She is proud of the fact that the Alta library is a fully accredited library. She discussed the public library and schools book inventories. Bonnie stated that the school will need to provide a list of books to the public library, those books can then be removed during school hours.

Gary Armstrong – Attorney for City of Alta - 1) With regards to SF-496, every school must have a library program in effect and the school must determine what is age appropriate. The legislation states that books may not describe or have any visual depiction of a sex act. 1st Violation – receive written warning. 2nd Violation – Superintendent is subject to a hearing. The Iowa Department of Education will not give guidelines on what is age appropriate so this falls on the school. 2) With regards to the 28E agreement between the public library and the school, Gary read the three provisions needed to meet that could lead to a 30 day termination of the agreement, none of these provisions apply. The 28E agreement is a contract and this contract will remain in effect until July 1st, 2025. It is up to the school to use their employees to review their books. Gary mentioned how a few other schools were determining which books to pull.

Denny Olhausen, A-A Superintendent spoke with regards to the access to the books by the students and even if the small kids' books are segregated you still have the problem of the adult books.

Pam Henderson – City Council Member – Asked that we make the agreement work until the 28E agreement can be met, giving the city time to come up with a plan for a new library space.

Denny Olhausen – A-A Superintendent – Ultimately it comes down to the school board on what plan they come up with. Will look at carting books to the students. Gigi raised the question as to how these books will be checked out and then checked back in. This will have to be discussed.

Mayor Kevin Walsh – Felt that the information we received from Gary Armstrong is good news in that it will give the city time to come up with a plan for a new library.

Bonnie McKewon - Stated that there is a grant coming out, fairly soon, that could allow up to \$3,000 for a building consultation, not sure there would be time for us to apply.

More discussion from the public. President Bruce Hinkeldey ended the conversation stating that the library board will continue to work with the school to come up with a temporary solution to keep the school in compliance and that we will wait to hear from the school board as to what solution they may come up with.

Approve July Meeting Minutes – Regular and Special – Gigi mentioned that there was a typo in the regular meeting minutes. Colleen Schwanz motioned to approve the regular meeting minutes with the correction and to approve the special meeting minutes. This motion was seconded by Colleen Carlson-Konop, approved by all and carried.

Accept & File Past Statistical Reports – This will be tabled to the September meeting due to problems with the WhoFi.

Accept & File Past City Revenue & Expense Reports – We are currently down on staff, the wages budget line was reviewed and it was decided to hire an assistant to the director. A motion was made by Willa Casstevens to approve the hire of an assistant director. This motion was seconded by Colleen Carlson-Konop; unanimous approval.

Approve August Bills – August bills were reviewed by the board. A motion was made by Colleen Schwanz to accept and approve the August bills. This motion was seconded by Colleen Carlson – Konop, approved by all and carried.

Old Business:

- **Board Member Search Update** - We are down one board member, Gigi will speak with Anna regarding attendance to the meetings. We all feel Anna is a very important part of the board and wish to see her attend more frequently. Spoke about trying to look for another male for the board, just for more diversity.
- **Hiring Director & Library Assistant** The board reiterated that the Director has the power to hire an assistant and fill the library clerk position.
- **Hot Spot Report** – The information was turned over the BV County Sheriff's department.

New Business:

- **Directors Report** – See Report
- **Discussion on 28E Agreement** – A discussion was had regarding the school librarian and when and how she might begin the weeding process of subjective books.

Next Board Meeting – September 14th, 2023 @ 5:15 p.m.

Adjournment – A motion was made by Willa Casstevens to adjourn the meeting. This motion was seconded by Colleen Schwanz. Approved by all and carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.