

Rock Island Public Library Board
Finance Committee Meeting Agenda
Friday, August 25 at 11:30am
Watts-Midtown Branch Conference Room

Type of Meeting: Board Finance Committee

Meeting Facilitator: Jenni Swanson

Committee chair Swanson called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.

Present: Committee members Jenni Swanson, Debbie Freiburg, Jacki Nelson, Elizabeth Russell; Library Director, Angela Campbell; City of Rock Island Budget & Grants Manager, Brian Smith and City Manager, Todd Thompson.

Absent: Committee member, Pat Mahar.

Public Comment: - None

New Business:

Watts-Midtown Occupancy Agreement Update

- Director Campbell reported that the Occupancy Agreement line-item for the Watts-Midtown Branch for CY 2023 is underbudget. Any surplus will be used to pay for sewer line repairs and ceiling tile/overhead pipe repairs.

Calendar Year 2024 Budget:

Review CY 2024 Startup

- The Committee reviewed the CY 2023 Targeted Projections & Deficit, and the CY 2024 Projected Deficit. They examined the reasons behind the deficits as a lack of inflationary increases of the Library Tax Levy and large inflationary increases in service contracts and personnel costs.
- Director Campbell gave a few ideas on how to alleviate the budget deficit: The City repay the bond for the library's portion of the JCI project; designating gaming funds to help support our building service contracts; and offering early retirement. She also noted that the Milan-Blackhawk Area Public Library District was doing a Truth in Taxation hearing which could significantly increase their contribution if the levy vote passes.
- The Library's CIP requests to the City include eight projects to enhance the Downtown Library, totaling an estimated \$1,115,000.00. The Committee discussed this in more detail during the "Reserve Funds" agenda item below.

- Budget and Grants Manager Smith explained that the missing link to the library’s budget is the EAV calculations from the County. Once that is known, the library tax levy will come into sharper focus. City Manager Thompson said that there is a high likelihood of a substantial EAV increase city-wide, and that we’ll have wait to see how that can help the library.

Reserve Funds

- Budget and Grants Manager Smith explained that the library’s 90-day reserve can be used towards emergency purchases, and that the “assigned reserve” fund was not necessary for emergencies. Committee-members and the library director asked for more info about this, as that had not been explained in that way in years’ past.
- Smith also explained that the Board should rank the Capital Improvement projects and get them in the budget before next year, which eliminates the need for budget adjustments.

Discuss Options/Recommendation(s) to Board of Trustees

- The committee decided to bring a variety of possibilities for consideration by the full Board of Trustees at their September 19, 2023 meeting. Committee Chair Swanson provided some ideas, in addition to the ones that were presented by Director Campbell.

Council Presentation Expectations

- City Manager Thompson said he would be meeting with City Council members individually to discuss how they would like to receive this year’s budget information. More details will be coming soon.

Any other budget concerns to discuss?

- Committee Chair Swanson encouraged the City to really look at equitable budgeting for all departments.

Unfinished Business - None

*** Closed Session** – None

Information Sharing – Thank you to City Manager Thompson and Budget & Grants Manager Smith for attending and providing valuable information.

Announcements - None

Adjournment – Debbie Freiburg made a motion to adjourn. Jacki Nelson seconded. All ayes were recorded as a voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Angela Campbell
Library Director