

**Minutes**  
**Blue Ridge Regional Library Governing Board**  
**Martinsville Library**  
**February 17, 2021**

Board members Jim Allen, Margaret Caldwell, Rives Coleman, Marty Gardner, Betsy Haskins, Mary Campbell Stromire, and Debbie Youngman were in attendance.

Also attending were Director Rick Ward and Interim Administrative Assistant George Gutshall.

Board members Janet Demiray, Kathy Hodges, Bill Kirby and Bernice Scales were unable to attend.

**Call to Order:**

Board Chair Betsy Haskins called the meeting to order at 12:05 and welcomed those in attendance.

Director Rick Ward presented the following service awards: Brian Robinson – 15 years; Kim Martin – 20 years; Rick Ward – 20 years; and Janet Boucher – 25 years.

**Minutes:**

The minutes from the January 20<sup>th</sup> meeting in Martinsville were presented and Rives Coleman moved that the minutes be approved, Mary Campbell Stromire seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

**Financial Report:**

George Gutshall reviewed the library's financial report.

He reported that there has been a drop in revenue as we have not been collecting fines and fees since the pandemic started but they can be offset with some savings we have accrued due to salary differences plus some savings on health insurance. This will need to be considered in the upcoming fiscal year as it will not be sustainable in the long run.

On a motion by Margaret Caldwell, seconded by Marty Gardiner, the board unanimously approved the financial report.

**Committee Reports:**

Margaret Caldwell, on behalf of the Marketing Committee, gave a report on the meeting they had prior to the board meeting. They have met with all the branch managers, are compiling wish lists from them all, and will report later. They also encourage all board members to contact their local representatives and attend some of the board meetings to show support for the library.

There was a discussion of the library's website with Margaret making several suggestions after examining numerous other library websites. IT personnel Emma Ravenel and Brian Robinson discussed the new website they are working on and mentioned the main thing they would need is time to get it up and running.

**Old Business:**

Rick Ward reported that he had spoken with Mike Dove about the four bids we have received to replace the roof at Martinsville. After some discussion, on a motion by Debbie Youngman, seconded by Mary Campbell Stromire, the board voted unanimously to award the contract to Service Roofing for the price of \$121,733 with the monies coming from the capital accounts.

Rick also reported the he has received the check from Kelly Chapman with Inspired, Inc. for the purchase of the old bookmobile and she has received the title and bill of sale from him. Now she just needs to come pick up the vehicle.

**New Business:**

Rick Ward reported that he had sent a budget request to all three localities and we are requesting an increase to cover the anticipated rise in insurance costs and the minimum wage going up at the beginning of next year.

**Friends Report:**

Mary Campbell Stromire reported the she is still organizing materials in the Friend's area of the Martinsville Library.

**Director's Agenda:**

Director Ward referred the board to the printed director's report.

He reported that Leandio Gravely and Emma Ravenel had come up with a QR code for patrons to take evaluation surveys on their phones. The first test run was with the Valentine's giveaway and we received 12 responses, which is encouraging, and we will continue to try the new system.

He also reported that we had received the Golden Collection, which is a selection of fifteen scripts by black playwrights donated by Jeremy O. Harris and the production company Seaview Productions. We are the only library in Virginia to receive this collection.

**Adjournment:**

Margaret Caldwell moved that the meeting be adjourned at 1:20, Mary Campbell Stromire seconded, and the meeting was adjourned.

Recorder  
Rick Ward

Jim Allen  
Secretary