

**Towns County Library Board Meeting**  
**April 6, 2021 10 a.m.**  
**Towns County Public Library Porch**

**Call to Order & Welcome—Barbara Hale, Chair.**

**Present:** Barbara Hale, Joan Crothers, Shirley Miller, Holly Tiger, Judy Slaton, Jerry Taylor

**Absent:** Paula Whitehead, Dionne Berrong.

**Staff:** Heath Lee, Director; Vicki Adkison, Ass't. Director/Financial Manager; T.C. Libraries Manager, Jessica Tibbetts. **FOLTC:** Suzanne Carter.

**Additions to Agenda:** Barbara Hale added the FOLTC report presented by Suzanne Carter to the Chair's report.

**Adoption of Agenda:** Motion to Approve by Shirley Miller; seconded by Holly Tiger and passed.

**Adoption of Minutes:** Holly Tiger made a Motion to approve the minutes as corrected for the January 5, 2021 meeting that had been emailed; seconded by Shirley Miller and passed.

Corrections: Second "t" in Tibbetts; FOLTC: \$196 was revenue from renewed and new memberships.

**Public Comments:** None.

**Items to be discussed**

**Old Business**

**Changes to T.C. Library Constitution & By-Laws:** Barbara brought up several questions which Heath explained, and also a correction in the second paragraph of Section 4: "is" should be changed to "are." Motion to adopt made by Shirley Miller, Holly Tiger seconded, and motion passed.

**New Business**

**Proposed FY22 Towns County Library Budget:** Discussed.

**Proposed Addition to MRLS Finance Policy – Removal of Owed Debts:**

MRLS has patron accrued debts from more than 3 years which will never be recovered, so it needs to be written off.

**Proposed new policy – Device, Kit, and Equipment Lending:**

MRLS is offering free access to a variety of technical equipment such as chromebooks and/or laptops with certain requirements to obtain them provided the policy is approved.

**Chairman's Report -** Barbara Hale said she saw Commissioner Bradshaw and thanked him for putting additional money for MRLS in his budget this year. Then she thanked Joan and Paula (in abstention) for the six years they have served the library system. She will be stepping down as Board Chair and she wanted Heath and Vicki to know she has appreciated the time they have been on the Board.

Shirley Miller was nominated and accepted the position as Towns County Library Board of Trustees Chair beginning July 1, 2021.

Judy Slaton was nominated and accepted the roll of Towns County Library Board of Trustees Vice-Chair beginning July 1, 2021.

The Towns County Library Board representatives on the Regional Board of Trustees for FY22 will be Shirley Miller, Judy Slaton, Holly Tiger, and Dionne Berrong.

**FOLTC:** Suzanne Carter said today is Library Workers' Appreciation Day and those in MRLS

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will receive an Ingles gift card from FOLTC. The honor system used in the recent book sales worked very well, selling a bag full for \$5. Members will meet with the Commissioner on April 14, at 10 a.m. for his matching \$5K.

**Director's Report:** Heath said the Service Plan for the remainder of FY21 will be adding back patron services and a return to normalcy. All branches are now operating at pre-Covid hours; quarantining and fines amnesty have ended; and community rooms will open. SRP Kick-off is in June 7.

A chart showing the rise of eMaterials increase was discussed, which will need increased spending on eBooks and eAudios. Air conditioning will be coming on the porch area (\$4K) at TCPL if matching funds for the approved MRR grant can be procured.

**State Budget News:** GPLS indicates material grants will be increased slightly to \$0.40/capita, equating to almost \$26K for MRLS's materials budgets.

**Fannin Library update:** Site and soil testing of the Whitepath building has commenced and when completed could have a bearing on this project.

**Branch Manager's Report:** Jessica Tibbetts said her first day as Branch Manager for the 2 County branches was on 1/4/21. Patrons are happy TCPL returned to branch services on 2/3/21 with hours Tues.-Fri. 10-6. MRL reopened 3/1/21 with hours Mon., Wed., Fri. 9-5. Sixty "Take & Make" STEAM kits were given to local youth re: Dr. Seuss' birthday and 50 rainbow science kits were given out for St. Patrick's Day. T. C. Branches have added 330 new items this quarter after much "weeding" was done. SRP will include presenters outdoors in the County.

**Financial Report**—Vicki Adkison, MRLS Assistant Director, said. MRL/TCPL is no longer operating in a deficit for FY21. Income Statements as of March 2021 were discussed.

**Personnel Report:** Whitney Husid was hired as the MRLS Assistant Branch Manager.

**Adjournment:** Motion was duly made to adjourn; seconded and passed.

Joan Crothers, Secretary.