Boone County Library District
Minutes, Meeting of August 16, 2012

Board members present were Pat Powell, President; Bridget Canaday; Dorothy Carner; Susan Daly and Lyle Johnson.

Also present were CLD Trustee John French, DBRL Director Melissa Carr and staff members Elinor Barrett, Amanda Burke and Jim Smith.

Call to Order
Powell called the meeting to order at 5:16 p.m. A quorum of members was present.

Introductions
Carr introduced French, who was appointed to the Columbia Library District Board in July.

Public Comment
There was no public comment.

Approval of Minutes
Powell asked for changes or corrections to the minutes from July 5, 2012. Hearing none, she declared the minutes approved as written.

Discussion of 2012 Tax Rate Options
Smith stated that the BCLD will meet on August 28 to set their 2012 operating tax rate. Smith displayed a chart showing the current tax rate of 30.01 cents per $100 dollars assessed valuation, the voter-approved rate of 32.00 cents per $100 dollars assessed valuation and two options for rolling up the tax rate: the “Hancock ceiling” rate of 30.91 cents per $100 dollars assessed valuation and the “Gibbons ceiling” rate (the current rate adjusted for inflation) of 30.36 cents per $100 dollars assessed valuation.

Smith stated that if the Hancock ceiling is selected, the district must adopt a 2012 Tax Rate Resolution (to be read at the BCLD break-out session later in the evening) but more revenue will be generated. If the Gibbons ceiling is selected, no resolution is needed but less revenue will be generated.

Carr reminded the board that they voted to maintain the tax rate in 2010, which changed the ceiling the district could possibly levy in 2011 and 2012. If the Gibbons ceiling is selected this year, the district will have the opportunity to roll up to the Hancock ceiling in 2014.

In response to a question from Powell, Smith stated that the current tax rate for the CLD is 29.71 cents per $100 dollars assessed valuation and that district has the opportunity to roll up to 30.21 cents per $100 dollars assessed valuation at their meeting in late August.

In response to a question from Carner, Carr stated that both the BCLD and CLD Trustees chose not to increase their tax rates in 2010, despite having the opportunity to do so, to demonstrate understanding of the difficult economic conditions faced by residents of their districts.

Carr reminded the group that if the BCLD and CLD are to merge in 2017, the tax rates need to be equal by that time.

In response to a question, Smith provided the revenue in dollars that would be generated by the two tax ceilings: the Hancock ceiling would generate about $146,000 in additional revenue and the Gibbons ceiling would generate about $57,000 in additional revenue.

Carr asked for the committee’s preference on what tax rate to post in the required public hearing advertisements. Daly indicated her preference for using the lower rate if possible. Powell agreed, noting how the drought has affected the local economy. Johnson also agreed and stated that it would be better to levy a higher rate when the library has a specific need for the increased revenue. Carr
told the Trustees that Smith had done calculations with the lower tax levy and believes the library can meet its operational goals at the Gibbons ceiling rate until it can be changed in 2014.

Johnson asked about the origins of the Gibbons ceiling and Smith replied that comes from a state statute created via Missouri Senate bill 711 and DBRL began using this ceiling in 2011.

In response to a question from Carner, Carr stated that the CCLD has a population of about 44,000 people, the CLD has just over 50,000 people and the BCLD has about 106,000 residents. She noted that the metro Columbia area has a population of about 108,000 people (many of whom are counted as BCLD residents).

Carner noted that the difference between the Gibbons and Hancock ceilings is a fraction of a penny. Carr provided an illustration of the difference for a $150,000 home: the Gibbons ceiling would equal a $1 per year increase in property taxes and the Hancock ceiling would equal a $2.57 per year increase.

Four committee members indicated their interest in rolling up to the Gibbons ceiling.

**Miscellaneous**

Barrett updated the Board on progress at the new leased facility in Ashland. She noted that the DBRL Board will be asked to consider increasing the project budget, based on the discussion of the Ad Hoc Building Committee at the last meeting and bid results for the shelving and millwork. Barrett reported that casework bids were received from two companies in request to the library’s RFP. Staff were informed by some companies that their current workload could not accommodate adding projects and completing them within the library’s deadline.

Barrett reported that two bids were received from Seville Woodworks and Timberline Custom Cabinets. Since the bid opening, Seville Woodworks has withdrawn their bid as they were unable to meet the bidding requirements. Timberline did not submit a bid on the shelving packages due to concerns about meeting the schedule deadlines. During the evaluation of the bids, staff met with Timberline’s owner, Jerry Wirth. Staff will present the DBRL board with the option of requesting a price quote for the shelving and a revised schedule from Timberline.

Carr noted that, if the DBRL Board approves it, a portion of the increased project budget will be included in the 2013 Operating Budget. If the increase is not approved, staff will create a furniture plan that fits the current budget. Carr added that the fundraising by Friends of the SBCPL is supplemental to the budget line item.

Carner asked if Timberline has enough employees to accommodate the projects the library is requesting. Barrett said that Wirth was confident that he could meet the proposed schedule for the five packages he first bid, but would need to develop a revised schedule if he is awarded the shelving contract.

Carr announced that the Building Committee will need to meet at the end of August in order to proceed with the project without further delay.

**Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, Powell adjourned the meeting at 5:49 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Amanda Burke, DBRL staff.

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Dorothy Carner, Board Secretary