

February 8, 2000

- Discussion of budget cuts by City of Laurens—amounts to 6% for library and only 3% for other city departments.
- Cost comparisons for Future Net (new City Communications utility) versus Northwest Internet, Havelock. No decision made.
- KWAALS developed a “Laurens & Friends OPOLY” game for the library.

April 26, 2000 (Special Meeting)

- Board met with mayor, city council representative, and chief of police on vandalism at the library. It was moved, seconded, and approved that those juveniles who have committed criminal damage to the library property be referred to local law enforcement, who will refer them to juvenile authorities.

May 9, 2000

- Disruptive Behavior, Malicious Mischief, Vandalism plus Confidentiality Policies were approved by the board.
- Laurens Future Net made a presentation to board about Internet service.
- Glenda Mulder and Meghan Brugman (student aide) are two new library employees.

June 27, 2000 (Special Meeting)

- Board approved the bid of Laurens Future Net to be our supplier of Internet services.
- A 5% increase in staff salaries was approved.

July 11, 2000

- Leland Grove, Mike Wright, and Brooks Anderson were reappointed to serve on the foundation board.
- Foundation annual meeting will be July 18.

September 12, 2000

- Notes were presented to the board by the library director outlining discrepancies made when originally entering on the computer the budget for last year and not reflecting amendments made in May. City Manager will correct these errors and will sign to the effect that the library was only \$100 over budget, not \$2400.
- Stats for August were total circulation, 2281; computer users, 250; fines \$48.75; and 140 books were withdrawn.

December 12, 2000

- Tentative date for updating Follett automation system (converting from DOS to Windows platform) is set for late this month.
- County Assessor reported that the farm property is not exempt from property taxes, because it is not operated as a “charity.” In other words, we cash rent the farm land.

January 9, 2001

Excerpts from librarian’s report

- In December 2000 the U.S. House of Representatives passed an Education Appropriations Bill with a rider attached requiring Internet filtering for libraries and schools. ALA recommended sitting tight until bill is actually signed into law.
- The library was closed for 5 days in December due to record snow fall. However circulation was up from last December. No one wanted to be caught at home with nothing to read or a video to watch.

May 8, 2001

- The 25th anniversary of the opening of our current library building will be celebrated on May 23, 2001.
- Inside wiring needs to be checked.
- Library director authorized to explore needs and possible funding for upgrading automation system—server and work station.

June 12, 2001

- Board had lengthy discussion on review and revision of Internet policy. There is no software that is 100% effective for the CIPA (Children’s Internet Protection Act) requirements. Since no e-mail, chat rooms, or downloading is permitted on library computers and board members upheld the idea of “no censorship” for on-line access of information, it was recommended that there would be no changes in the library’s current Internet Access Policy.

September 18, 2001

- Approved by the board to purchase a new server and workstation from Northwest Internet for \$7,000, excluding transfer of automation files to the new server. This will be charged at the rate of \$65 per hour.
- The 8th grade TAG students, KWAALS (Kids Working and Assisting Library Staff), will again meet at the library on Tuesdays and Thursdays. This program has been going on for four years.
- A.A. Milne published the first Winnie-the-Pooh book on October 14, 1926. We are gearing up to celebrate Pooh’s 75th birthday with a party at the library the third week in October.

November 13, 2001

- The board approved five Library Service Responses (areas of concentration) as Current Topics and Titles; General Information; Local History and Genealogy; Lifelong Learning; and Community Referral.
- The board also approved an amended mission statement which now reads: The Laurens Public Library maintains current titles reflecting popular cultural and social trends plus recreational experiences; provides information and answers to a broad array of topics; offers local history and genealogy services; promotes lifelong learning opportunities for community residents; and facilitates interaction and participation in community activities.

February 12, 2002

- President Brooks Anderson reported he met with Laurens Municipal Light Plant board members requesting a contribution of \$2,500 to help pay for our new server and work station.
- Bills for the month were \$2,133; payroll was \$3,922. Staff includes a full time director and 6 part-time employees.

March 12, 2002

- Librarian reported on long-range goals for July 1999-June 2001 and what had been accomplished.
- Long range goals for July 2001-June 2004 were approved by the board. (See appendices)

April 9, 2002

- Marcia Leu resigned her staff position at the library
- Laurens Municipal Light Plant will give \$2,500 to the library to help with computer costs.
- Library hours changed to: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Thursday, Friday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The library will now be open 43 hours a week instead of 41 hours.

July 9, 2002

- Salary increase for employees was set for 5% effective July 1.
- Dorothy Lamberti and Connie Dallenbach were reappointed to the foundation board.

October 8, 2002

- The board accepted a proposal from Bouska Electric to upgrade the outside security lights to a photocell system.
- September circulation was 2805; there were 10 programs for children with an attendance of 137; computer users for month were 45.

December 10, 2002

- Brooks Anderson announced that he would not accept another term. Kristy Mather and Jeanette Korreect will stay on if re-appointed by the mayor.
- Library received a grant of \$11,620 from the Gates Foundation to be used in the purchase of two new desktop computers for patron use and one computer server.

January 14, 2003

- Fred Johnson was appointed to Library Foundation Board to replace Brooks Anderson.
- New officers are Mary Ann Orr, President; Russell Thumma, Vice-President; and Jeanette Korreect, Secretary.

March 11, 2003

- The digital camera use policy was approved by the board.
- The library will join the Laurens Chamber of Commerce as an associate member.
- Bills for the month totaled \$2,760, excluding payroll.

June 10, 2003

- Sandi gave the library report. The summer reading program has started; months of May, June, and July 2004 have been set for the observance of the 100th anniversary of the library.

July 8, 2003

- Library has filed all the required state reports for last fiscal year.
- Children's books were ordered for the Libri Foundation Grant.
- Director was authorized to obtain an estimate for new carpet.
- Brooks Anderson, Fred Johnson, and Amber Evans were appointed to the foundation board.

August 12, 2003

- Library received accreditation from the state for the next three years.
- Carpet samples are still being reviewed.

October 14, 2003

- The new Gates computers are installed.
- Once again the library and Chamber of Commerce will sponsor a magician for Halloween night.
- A new book on Carnegie libraries in Iowa has been published. Our Carnegie library picture is included in the book.

December 9, 2003

- The foundation fund raiser was a success. About 200 people attended the pancake supper. The donations received that night were \$2053 and \$475 has been received in the mail. The total book sale for Hill Avenue Books was \$1270. In return the library received 21 books valued at \$256.
- November stats: total circulation 2251, a decrease of 447 from last November stats. Over 500 people attended 17 programs held at the library. This included the foundation fund raiser.
- Sealed bids were opened for supplying and installing new carpet in the library. The low bid was J H Design, \$23.75 per square yard.

March 9, 2004

- Library will be closed March 10-17 to install new carpet. We have good volunteer response. The library will supply donuts and coffee for their efforts.
- Library report stated "...no impending cuts from Pocahontas County funding for county libraries next year". We should remain at \$7200.
- Library received the following state funding: 75% of our Open Access/Access Plus funding (\$750); the remainder (\$250) in April. We received 40% of Infrastructure funds (\$350); the remainder (\$530) also in April.

April 13, 2004

- Library report stated "Over 60 different individuals appeared at the library to help move, (ages 7-80)". About 525 man hours were contributed in 7 days. The library reopened as scheduled on Thursday, March 18.
- Sixteen visits by students are scheduled for this month: KWAALS (8th grade TAG) on Thursday and Fridays; Early Childhood, 2 sections; 2nd, 3rd, and 5th Brown Bags.

June 8, 2004

- Plans are underway to celebrate the centennial of the Laurens Public Library, June 15-July 31. The theme is “A Century of Books and More @ your library.” Special letterhead stationery has been designed for use during the 6-week celebration. Activities include programs, weekly door prizes, displays, free note pads, and a “pop” quiz—get all the answers right to a library services quiz and receive a can of pop.
- Terms of use for the Internet were also discussed and it was decided to allow clients’ use of e-mail. One reason for this change of policy was the new security features of the Gates Foundation computers.

July 13, 2004

- It was moved and seconded that we create a new staff position, Computer Technician.
- Gerald McDaniel is retiring from his electrical service business (he volunteered his electrical services to the library for many years.) A book will be placed in the library in his honor.

August 10, 2004

- Board approved a new salary schedule for 2004-2005. Total payroll budget set at \$52,500, including director’s salary of \$22,500.
- Library received \$5,000 from the estate of Byron Aschenbrenner, with an additional gift forthcoming.
- Board authorized library director to get a credit card for the library.
- Goals and Objectives for June 2001-2004 were reviewed. (See Appendices)
- New Goals and Objectives for 2004-2007 were adopted; library Service Responses and Mission Statement were approved with no changes. (See Appendices)

December 14, 2004

- Library director is authorized to establish a procedure limiting cell phone use in the library.
- The library now has a Large Print Loan program in which we are lending large print books (25 at a time) to other area libraries.
- Library will be closed December 24, 25, 31, and January 1.

February 21, 2005 Special Meeting)

- Board accepted bid of \$2,895 to install automatic doors in the library.

June 14, 2005

- Summer Reading program well underway—Dragons, Dreams, and Daring Deeds.
- Staff salaries will be raised 4% for next fiscal year, same percentage raise as City of Laurens employees.

July 12, 2005

- The new web page is up and running: laurenspubliclibrary.com.
- The new pre-school outreach program was announced to the board. We will have 9 “theme” tubs that will travel to six private day care centers starting in September. These tubs will include books, videos, activities, and toys and will be delivered monthly by the children’s director, Carol Hoffman.
- Four highway directional signs to the library will be installed by Pocahontas County road department on county roads, and two signs will be installed by the DOT on Highway 10.
- Library Foundation received \$22,000 from Barney Aschennbrenner Estate to be used to benefit library.

September 13, 2005

- Library report stated that the upcoming MetaBank Charity Cookout is planned for September 20, with proceeds to go to the library. Consensus of the board members was that we will contribute those funds to library recovery in the (Katrina) hurricane disaster area of the Gulf Coast.
- Statistics were August 2005—total circulation, 2663; acquired materials, 115; withdrawn materials for a year, 1093; computer users for the month, 174.

October 11, 2005

- Programming in October includes: Classical guitarist, Peter Fletcher, October 17, “Fall Classical Cornucopia.” This is sponsored by the Laurens Public Library Foundation. Brad Olsen, pharmacist at Ressler Drug, will give two programs on Medicare Plan D prescription drug insurance plan. Magician Larry Dunbar will be at the library on October 31 for Halloween.
- “Smartest Card In Your Wallet” campaign to sign up new patrons was held during September. Patrons were asked to sign-up for a new library card, or simply update their information. We had 175 patrons participate.

November 14, 2005

- Two new Windows XP computers were installed in the library—both for staff use.
- Review of report from State Library of Iowa on “Library Funding Disparities” comparing city/county funding for all libraries in Iowa. Conclusion was that our library is supported very well by Laurens city funding, but below average on county funding.
- Approved to have Nancy Meyerink in Pocahontas recover six large library chairs at a cost not to exceed \$2100. Interior painting to be done by board members, staff, and Dean Mather shortly after Christmas.

January 18, 2006 (Special Meeting)

- The Laurens Public Library Board of Trustees offered a contract to Glenda Mulder to fill the co-director position. This will be a training position for Glenda to possibly fill the director’s position in July when Sandi Neary retires. She will begin as co-director on March 1, 2006

March 14, 2006

- Librarian report stated that the revised Patriot Act will not include the “search without cause” provision for libraries. A court order will now be needed as in previous years.
- March bills totaled \$4253.13. This amount included \$681 in farm property taxes, \$600 repair to heat pumps; and \$1360 in materials purchase. Salaries average \$4400 per month.

April 12, 2006

- Board president Mary Ann Orr resigned her office due to health concerns, but will stay on as a board member.
- Russell Thumma was elected president.
- Board member Amber Evans resigned from the board.

May 9, 2006

- Jane Christensen was welcomed as a new board member to replace Amber Evans.
- Jan Hersom was appointed to the library foundation board to replace Amber Evans.

June 13, 2006

- Sandi Neary submitted her resignation as library director effective June 30, 2006. Retirement party will be June 29 from 4-6 p.m.
- Glenda has completed her PLM1 (Public Library Management 1) class. The PLM2 class will be this fall. She will assume director duties on July 1, 2006.

- Additional Laurens Public Library part-time staff members as of this date are: Joyce Rigby, Cataloguer/Assistant Director; Carol Hoffman, Children's Director; Mary Dean, Computer Technician/Circulation; Janet Runneberg, Circulation; and Ariel Alstott, Student Aide/Cleaning.