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Yakima Valley Libraries
Board of Trustees
Budget Study Session
Monday, September 28, 2026– 3:30 p.m.
Yakima Central Library Boardroom

I. OPENING OF MEETING:

Board Member Present: President-Bradley Liebrecht, Vice-President Jameson Watkins, Secretary Judith Panagakos, Trustee Victor DeLong

Staff Present: Executive Director-Candelaria Mendoza, Executive Assistant – Michael Huff, Library Services Director-Francisco Garcia-Ortiz, Regional Library Manager Region 1- Jason Stieber, Regional Library Manager Region 2- Heather Campbell**,** Collection Development & Circulation Manager- LeNee Gatton, IT Manager-Melissa Vickers, Technical Services & NWRR Manager -Sherrie Prentice, Human Resources Manager – Maria Hernandez, Accounting Manager-Lucia Nesta-Espinoza, Community Engagement & Impact Manager- Sully Gama, Facilities Manager-Susan Miller

Absent: Trustee Noemi Yaneli Sanchez

Visitors: One community member

Call to Order

a. President Liebrecht called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm.

b. Determination of quorum
President Liebrecht determined a quorum of the Trustees was present.

c. Recognition of visitors:
The visitor was recognized.

d. Approval of the agenda
President Liebrecht approved the agenda as presented.

II. Budget Study Session: Potential 2027 Initiatives Information/Discussion

Mendoza presented the 2027 initiatives. They included deferred maintenance, the services and facilities assessment, technology improvements, early literacy, salaries and benefits, the brand rollout, and the list of potential projects for 2027.

a. **Deferred Maintenance**
The staff recommendation is to increase the total revenue from 1% to 2%. Mendoza stated that the exact number will be provided during the October budget study session. She also presented the fleet plan and recommended replacing one of the transit vans for the 2027 budget.

b. **Services and Facilities Assessment**
The section included a 2024 summary, a 2026 status update, and staff recommendations for 2027. The trustees asked for an update on the Mabton Library. Mendoza said the City conducted a community survey showing that the majority of residents want the library to continue. She said the Mayor informed her that they are unlikely to have the budget to pay the contracted amount moving forward. Mendoza added that the City of Mabton is past-due in their payments for 2026.

c. **Technology Improvements**
This section included 2027 recommendations, a tentative timeline, and an estimated budget. Trustee Watkins inquired about the RFP for the website redesign. He was informed that it wasn't ready yet, but would be shared with him for review once it was finalized.

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d. Early Literacy
The strategic priority of early literacy initiatives at YVL was reiterated, and the staff recommendation for 2027 was presented.

e. Salaries and Benefits
The Board was informed of the cost-of-living adjustment in 2027, the annual wage scale step increase, and the increases to both medical and dental insurance benefits.

f. Brand Rollout
The staff recommendation for a phased approach was presented, including an overview of the designated funds for signage.

g. 2027 Potential Project List
The project list covered facilities, IT, public services, and administration.

Additional information can be found in the presentation slides located in the September Board Packet Binder in the Central Library Boardroom.

III. Adjournment

President Liebrecht adjourned the meeting at 3:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Signed by:
Judy Lanning Panagakos
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Judith Panagakos

Secretary