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Yakima Valley Libraries
Board of Trustees
Budget Study Session
Monday, October 26, 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 (online), Trustee Victor DeLong, Trustee Noemi Yaneli Sanchez

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:

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

a. **Deferred Maintenance**
b. **Services and Facilities Assessment**
c. **Technology Improvements**
d. Early Literacy
e. Salaries and Benefits
f. Brand Rollout
g. 2027 Potential Project List

Mendoza presented the 2027 draft budget alongside the potential project list, followed by a budget breakdown from Accounting Manager Lucia Nesta-Espinoza. The project list included projects for facilities, IT, and public services, as well as the collective bargaining agreement negotiations. She also reiterated what was presented last month on deferred maintenance, services and facilities, technology, early literacy, the brand rollout, and salaries and benefits, but with staff recommendations and cost estimates.

Due to a Zoom connection and speaker issue, the meeting was paused at 3:45pm to restart the application. The meeting resumed at 3:47 pm.

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2027 Budget Breakdown:
Nesta-Espinoza began by sharing that the funds allocated to the Mabton library will be removed from the 2027 budget and allocated to meet other needs. She then covered the 2027 budget assumptions, the 2027 tax base, property tax rebate, the 2027 estimated budget revenue, and estimated expenditures. Mendoza said the numbers presented will be close to the final figures to be presented at the November meeting, but with minor changes reflecting the reallocation of Mabton funds.

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

III. Adjournment

President Liebrecht adjourned the meeting at 3:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Signed by:
Judy Lannin Panagakos
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Judith Panagakos

Secretary