Jordan Valley District Library
Special Board Meeting
Wednesday, October 7, 2026
4:00 p.m.

Present: Tom Breakey, Nikki Skrocki, Joy Hettig, Susan Stump, Bailey Kishefsky and Director Dawn LaVanway
Absent: Margaret Manor, Karen Lorne & Barb Orban

Call to order
Tom Breakey called the special board meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Unfinished Business
Library Agreement-
Library Attorney Anne Seurynck attended the meeting in person to explain changing the current Library agreement for equal representation. She started by explaining how district libraries are formed. Jordan Valley District Library was formed prior to the 1989 district library law becoming a law. An organizational plan for this library was required due to this issue. The plan included two entities consisting of the city and school with the school district boundaries being the area. Anne handed out a map of the area boundaries so board members could see the area and explained Jordan and South Arm have contracts.

If the board plans to keep the same two municipalities of the City and the School but change how many people are picked by these two entities for a new library agreement, then they can only have a 7 or 8 person board. The City and school in the original organizational plan agreed four (4) members shall be appointed by the Mayor of the City of East Jordan, with the consent of the City Council, and four (4) members shall be appointed by the East Jordan Public Schools Board of Education. All Board members shall serve terms of (4) years. Appointees must be registered electors of the participating municipality that appointed them and be residents of the Library district on the date of the appointment.

If the agreement gets changed to have equal trustee representation on the board from each municipality, then it would be a different process. Townships will have to become part of the district library agreement. It could be one or all of the townships without changing the boundaries. The townships will have to pass a resolution to join the district library to get representation and then that township board would appoint a person to the Library Board.

There are six municipalities total. The City is already included in the agreement, so the City may not need to approve of a new resolution. Eveline, Wilson, and Echo will need to be approached to ask if they would like to join to have representation. South Arm and Jordan Townships will depend on the areas that are not complete in the school district boundaries which will need to be looked at.

Step 1:
Anne Seurynck suggested the President and Director form a library agreement committee. The Committee should approach the Supervisor or Clerk of the township to let them know what the library board is planning and the township's opportunities to join. If interested, she suggested to be on the agenda and explain the Library board's recommendation to change the district library agreement and give them time to think about it. When all six municipalities agree, there should be discussion on who would get the 7th vote. It could be a rotating position between the municipalities, etc. There is no liability for the townships to pay for the Library if something would change financially for operational of the Library in the future. This was a question as the Jordan Valley EMS agreement does require townships to pay if something should financially happen to keep it solvent.

Another option was to go to an elected board. The two entities would not have to change but the City and School would have to agree to the plan. It would consist of having an election in which people running for election could all be from any one municipality or not. An election would not have equal representation. An election would take the most votes of the top voted number of people decided to be on the board and would happen when the school board does their board election. The current board would serve until that election.

Discussion was held regarding conflict with a Library board member also being on City Commission. The City and School currently approve appointments to the Library board. This does not mean that a person appointed by the entity is loyal to the city or the school. They must wear two hats and support the City when making decisions at City meetings and support the Library when making Library decisions at Library meetings. This City Commissioner who has been appointed to the Library Board is not the liaison to the City. The City's responsibility is to strictly just pick four people to the Library Board. A Library board member should advocate for the Library and not go to the City meeting and bring up Library issues that they feel need to be solved as one board member at a public open meeting. To have the City Commissioner answer questions about the Library is different than giving a detailed report every meeting about the actions on the library. Discussion was held whether it was like the EMS board in which each municipality appoints a person to the EMS board and they are a representative and liaison to that municipality which appointed them. Discussion was also questioned whether the City Commissioner/Library board member could vote on something that pertained to the Library and the City. Anne Seurynck suggested that if there is an agreement or a contract between the Library and the City, then the City Commission person should not vote and abstain. Anne cited the Michigan incompatible public offices Act 566 of 1978 to look at. She also stated a board member should not give out confidential or closed meeting information to the City regarding the Library and the other way around.

New Business
Discussion with attorney-
Board bylaws were discussed. The attorney explained that she read the motion that the board agreed to and it said the Library board wanted her to update the board bylaws from the June

24, 2026 minutes. She sent a template that is used for district libraries with things that she felt needed to be removed from the current bylaws. The Board President and Director looked at the issues the attorney sent and pulled the ones that were not necessary and drafted the bylaws for board to discuss. Nikki Skrocki felt that it was wrong and that she should have seen the template as well as all board members to look at. She then reached out to the Library's attorney to get them so she could present at the next board meeting. Anne Seurynck explained that it is standard for Directors of Libraries to put policies together for approval. The attorney recommended she will go back and cross off where she felt needed changing in the bylaws. Anne Seurynck was questioned about what can be done if a board member does not follow the bylaws. She said the Governor has the power to remove a member for cause and of all the years she has been an attorney she has not seen that ever happen.

Anne said she felt this board has much ~~anonymity~~ animosity regarding who has authority. She said there is a lack of communication between the board as it seems to be combative. She suggested the board should work on getting emails taken care due to some board members saying they didn't get emails that were sent from the Director over the past few months. She also suggested discussion should be held on who can call the attorney as she feels she is in the middle of who to talk to and if she is doing right. The President and/or the Director is the usually the prodical to deal with legal issues. However, she made it clear she has no problem talking to all board members, but feels talking to all eight board members is spending a lot of library money and not fiduciary responsible to the taxpayers. She also suggested that motions be thought out and really considered the wording before approving so there are no misunderstandings between the board when approved. For board members requesting something for the agenda or information, she suggested that this goes through the Secretary or President depending on the circumstances. She also suggested the President contact Clare Membiela the State Library Law Consultant to do onboarding with the board to discuss authority, what is your role, privacy act, and bylaws for the board.

The Director questioned what to do when a board member goes above staff's authority. The Director explained an incident that happened with board member Nikki Skrocki who sent the Director an email a week before opening Saturday hours. She was asking if the library had a graphic to share with her because she wanted to promote it through her business page. The Director responded back that the staff was working on it. The staff posted on the Library Facebook page a graphic the following day. Days later the staff found out by a special email from the Chamber that Nikki created a graphic with a logo that was not the Library's, and had it sent out through the Chamber to its members and on her business Facebook page. It appeared as if the Library created the graphic and there may have been legal issues with the logo. The staff was not aware and felt it was going over their heads when seeing the chamber email and also on Facebook. Nikki said she was trying to be helpful and apologized. Anne suggested the board do board training on authority roles.

Bailey Kishefsky questioned why the Secretary of the Library Board does not actually take the minutes. The attorney explained it is not uncommon for staff or the Library Director to take the

minutes. The Secretary does not have to take the minutes and can allow someone else to take them. The secretary is however responsible to sign the minutes.

Nikki asked about library board members being liable making decisions for the Library and wondered if there is insurance to cover her because she found out her home owner's insurance does not cover liability on a board. The Library does have Directors and Officers Liability insurance.

Recognition of audience-
Four guests in audience. Two people left when recognition of audience. No public comment.

Adjournment
The meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Susan Stump

Susan Stump, Secretary