
The Blue Mountains Public Library Board Meeting

Meeting Date: November 30, 2023
Meeting Time: 9:30 a.m.
Location: Council Chambers
Broadcast through Council Live Stream
[Posted to LiveStream Link](#)

Prepared By: Jennifer Murley, CEO/Secretary of the Board

In Attendance: ~~Laurey Gillies (Chair)~~ Julia Scott (Vice Chair)
Joanne de Visser Shawn McKinlay
Kristina Wichman Marie Swift

Absent: N/A

Regrets: Laurey Gillies (Chair)

Staff: Dr. Sabrina ER Saunders, CEO

A. Call to Order

The Board meeting was held jointly at TBM Council Chambers as a Special Joint Meeting. The Board was called to order by the Chair. A Moment of Reflection was observed, followed by the reading of the Indigenous Acknowledgement Statement by the Council Clerk.

B. Agenda

B.1 Approval of the Agenda

BMPL-Resolution 2023-103

Moved by Joanne de Visser and seconded by Marie Swift, THAT the Agenda of November 30, 2023 Special Joint Meeting with Council, be approved as circulated. CARRIED.

B.2 Declaration of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof None.

C. BMPL Response Presentation & Discussion

C.1 Presentation Entitled “BMPL Needs Assessment & Usage”

The presentation was led by Board Vice-Chair, Julia Scott, and Board member Joanne de Visser. A lengthy discussion followed.

A summary of comments and requests by counsellors included:

- It was clarified that the facilities and lands where Library facilities are located is the property of the Town and the Library is a tenant.
- Significant discussion took place regarding parking concerns for the Beaver Valley Community School and L.E. Shore Library expansion. Parking concerns are on the agenda for Municipality/School Board's needs.
- Membership numbers were questioned. Library database is up to date because of regular maintenance and a new system that was implemented.
- Library was commended for detailed data and services for young people in the community. Teen service expansion is ideal, but there is a lack of space for this demographic.
- Opening on Sundays could be an opportunity to expand growth and meet community needs, but they are a challenge due to staffing shortages.
- Technology and expanding technology services is a priority but L.E. Shore Library does not have the room or electric to build a formal makerspace.
- Key message: Library successes are Town successes. The Board is provided tax dollars to provide services and annually these successes are reported to the community. In 2024, collaborative marketing would benefit both parties.
- Finances were discussed. Development Charges can be used for new expansion related to growth and opening day expenses. Operating costs are dependent on the type of facility. Staffing and programming needs would be under \$500,000. Interfunctional transfers are to be determined.
- Sundays are not in the Library budget, which is not brought to Council each year because of the 6% funding agreement. Community has already spoken on their needs, 2024 draft budget has been approved by the Board, and Sundays were not included. The Board can bring a proposed addition to the budget to Council but a motion is required.
- The land at 177 Bruce Street South is owned by Council – it has not been designated – but the intention (since 2015) has been to use it for the expansion of L.E. Shore. Expansion is an option. Recommendation by consultants was to move the parking lot to this lot and expand into the existing parking lot. The issue is that this will not serve the Craigleith community. Library Board needs Council direction on next steps.
- Needs Assessment needs to come from the Multi-Use Feasibility Study to determine what Council will build and how they will build it.

Council Resolution:

Moved by: Councillor Ardiel

Seconded by: Councillor Maxwell

THAT Council of the Town of The Blue Mountains receives The Blue Mountains Public Library Board's Needs Assessment and Usage Report, November 2023, and the Board presentation in response to the June 14, 2023, Joint Meeting; and

AND THAT Council direct Town staff to include the consideration of expanded library services in the Multi-Use Feasibility Study.

Yay (5): Deputy Mayor Bordignon, Councillor Ardiel, Councillor Maxwell, Councillor McKinlay, and Councillor Porter.

Absent (2): Mayor Matrosovs and Councillor Hope.

The motion is carried 5-0.

Moved by: Councillor Porter

Seconded by: Councillor McKinlay

THAT, with respect to The Blue Mountains Public Board's Needs Assessment and Usage Report dated November 30, 2023, and the Board presentation in response to Council request of June 14, 2023, Council directs that the Blue Mountains Library CEO shall be a member of the RFP Committee and Study Committee.

Yay (2): Councillor McKinlay, and Councillor Porter

Nay (3): Deputy Mayor Bordignon, Councillor Ardiel, and Councillor Maxwell

Absent (2): Mayor Matrosovs, and Councillor Hope

The motion is lost (2 to 3).

BMPL-Resolution 2023-104

Moved by Marie Swift and seconded by Joanne de Visser THAT the Board receive the discussions with Council as information. CARRIED.

D. Adjourned

BMPL-Resolution 2023-105

Moved by the Chair, THAT this Board does now adjourn to meet again at the call of the Chair. CARRIED.

Julia Scott, Vice-Chair

Jennifer Murley, Board Secretary