

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
February 13, 2024

**Members Present:**

Coun. Eldon MacDonald, Coun. Steve Gillespie, Douglas MacLennan and Kathy MacIntyre representing the Cape Breton Regional Municipality; Terry Murray, and Coun. Barbara Longva representing the County of Victoria;

**Vacant:** Province of Nova Scotia Library Board Appointees (2 vacancies)

**Call to Order**

Chair, Coun. Eldon MacDonald called the meeting to order at 10:12 am.

**Library Budget Workshop:**

New date for the Library Budget Workshop is March 5, 5 pm.

**New Central Library:**

The Board discussed the findings of the Stantec Report on the Courthouse which was presented to CBRM Council on January 23rd. The report consisted of two parts:

1. Condition Assessment and Feasibility
2. Conceptual drawings of the building with a renovation/ expansion for the purposes of the Library.

Lisa reviewed deficiencies and concerns raised by library staff regarding the conceptual drawings presented at the Council meeting:

- The design presented challenges for people with mobility issues e.g. the elevator is outside the main corridor.
- Washrooms are located on the perimeter of the building.
- Negative impact on staffing levels due to poor sightlines and multiple entrances.
- The three-story building will require enhanced security features, including a full-time guard.
- No garage or loading area was included for the three library vehicles, bookmobile and shipping/receiving.
- Lack of natural lighting in the basement level office space.
- Potential building issues impacting service levels and overall functioning of space.

The Board had a detailed discussion on the pros and cons of the former Courthouse building and the design presented by Stantec. In conclusion, the Board decided to write a letter to Mayor Amanda McDougall-Merrill stating: the Board met to discuss the Stantec report on the Courthouse, and we support further discussion on the building as a possible location for a New Central Library provided that the site undergoes a complete redevelopment including an additional elevator to support accessibility. Other must-haves to include are a loading dock and garage for library vehicles.

**Adjournment:**

There was no motion to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Mulak, Secretary  
Cape Breton Regional Library Board