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### Request for Special City Council Meeting

Westmoreland, Kansas

Dated: February 9, 2017

To: Mark A. Goodenow  
Mayor of Westmoreland

We, the undersigned, Council members of the City of Westmoreland, Kansas, hereby respectfully request you to call a Special Meeting of the Council for the object(s) and purpose(s) of:

Meeting with Commissioners Weixelman and county  
and administrators Robert Reece regarding concerns  
with the Pottawatomie - Wabunsee Regional Library

This meeting will take place at the Community Center on February 20, 2017  
at 7:00 pm

Signed: [Signature] Council member  
Mark Jack

[Signature] Council member  
Jim Moore

[Signature] Council member  
Waide Purvis

[Signature] Council member  
Jeff Rosell

[Signature] Council member  
Jim Smith

Westmoreland City Council  
Special Meeting Minutes  
February 20, 2017

The Westmoreland City Council held a special meeting on February 20, 2017 at the Westmoreland Community Center for the purpose of discussing the library within the Pottawatomie-Wabaunsee Regional Library System with Pottawatomie County Commissioner Pat Weixelman and Pottawatomie County Administrator Robert Reece.

Governing Body members present: Mayor, Mark Goodenow; Councilmembers, Jim Smith, Jeff Rosell, Waide Purvis, Mark Jack and Jim Moore.

City Staff present: City Attorney, John Watt and City Clerk, Vicki Zentner.

Others present: Pat Weixelman, Pottawatomie County Commissioner; Robert Reece, Pottawatomie County Administrator; City Library committee members: Janet Goodenow (chair), Kent Robb and Beka Purvis; citizen, CJ Purvis.

There being a quorum present, Mayor Goodenow called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and turned the floor over to Councilmember Purvis as liaison to the library committee.

Councilmember Purvis explained to Mr. Weixelman and Mr. Reece and the others in attendance the issues the council and library committee had encountered with the regional library director and head librarian to help with ideas on how to promote usage at the library and with the summer reading program. He stated that every time the council or committee gave suggestions they were met with excuses concerning staffing issues, money issues and policy issues.

Mr. Weixelman asked if the council had been given a copy of the policy. Councilmember Jack answered that the council had not seen a copy of the policy even though it had been requested. Councilmember Rosell injected that the council was also given the answer that there was a state statute that required a paid staff person had to be present in the library and not a volunteer.

Councilmember Purvis also stated that when the city library committee met with the director and head librarian regarding the summer program and having volunteers come in and presentations, they were told that the summer reading program was just for children up to the age of 8 and that the city could not use the building (even though the city owns the building, doesn't charge them rent and pays for all utilities except phone and internet, and makes repairs).

Mr. Weixelman asked if the council could pick a schedule of the days and hours they would like to see the library open, what would they be. Councilmember Moore stated he didn't feel the council could answer this question without having a survey sent to the patrons.

Councilmember Rosell stated that at this time, he was ready to have the city take over the library and run it. He, as well as Councilmembers Jack and Purvis, was certain that the city would be able to find volunteers to work and that there would be plenty of donated books to start with.

Mr. Weixelman stated that he was the liaison to the library board for the county and that he would ask them where their "paid librarian" is at the grocery store where patrons can pick up ordered books from the library when the library is closed.

Councilmember Moore stated that the council and bank have tried to help promote the library by offering to print brochures and articles in the city newsletter, but the director wanted both entities to make them up and then she would approve them. Councilmember Moore stated that he had informed the director that this was her job to write the articles, not bank staff or city staff.

Councilmember Jack stated the council was wanting to have the library open for the benefit of the children and other patrons in the community but felt that no matter what ideas or suggestions might be brought before the director they would be "shot down" without any consideration or trial basis.

Mayor Goodenow stated that Westmoreland is a bedroom community and thus the council felt that the library needed to be open at least Saturday mornings and have more/longer evening hours for patrons to use the library when they return to Westmoreland from work.

Mr. Reece was asked what it would take for the city to raise the city's mill levy in order to have a city ran library. Mr. Reece responded that the city would have to ask the State for permission to raise the budget mill levy due to the budget cap that is in place.

He also suggested that the city talk to the library board and set up a convenience contract where the library board would provide the service and keep the book rental and the city would handle staffing with the board setting up volunteer training.

Councilmember Purvis asked what if the library board and city don't agree with the perimeters, how would the city get out of being associated with the regional library system.

Mr. Reece replied that they can disband by a vote of the patrons and make a city library. He also stated the city can take control of the building since it is owned by the city.

When asked if the city wanted to do their own library would they be able to legally, Attorney Watt responded they can form their own city library without a vote but if the city wanted to levy taxes it would have to go before the patrons for a vote.

Mr. Weixelman stated he would be attending the next regional library board meeting in the next two days and will take the council's concerns and suggestions to them.

Mr. Weixelman and Mr. Reece exited the meeting at 8:10 PM.

Councilmember Moore stated he would like the city clerk to survey other towns not part of a regional library system and see what hours, programs they offer and if they use volunteers. The towns he suggested contacting were Frankfort, Waterville, Blue Rapids and Riley.

There being no further discussion, Councilmember Rosell moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Purvis seconded the motion. The motion passed five (5) ayes to zero (0) nays.

Mayor Goodenow declared the meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Approved by the Governing Body on March 9, 2017.



Signed: Mark A. Goodenow  
Mark A. Goodenow, Mayor

Vicki B. Zentner  
Vicki B. Zentner, City Clerk