

Joint Meeting with Albemarle County Board of Supervisors and JMRL Board, February 9, 2011, at Albemarle County Office Building

Minutes prepared by Albemarle County staff.

LIBRARY BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Mary Coy (Nelson County), Mr. Gary Grant (Albemarle County), Mr. Peter McIntosh (Charlottesville), Mr. Mike Plunkett (Charlottesville), Ms. Faye Rosenthal (Louisa County), Mr. Timothy F. Jost Tolson (Albemarle County), Mr. Anthony Townsend (Albemarle County), and Ms. Deborah Willenborg (Greene County).

ABSENT: Hope Payne (Charlottesville).

ASLO PRESENT: Library Director, John Halliday, and Ms. Roxanne White.

---

Item No. 2a. Work Session: Regional Library Study.

Mr. Elliott reported that he would review some findings and data related to the Jefferson-Madison Regional Library analysis the Board requested staff undertake last year. He said that he would review the scope of work the Board authorized staff to move forward on, consider some of the County's contractual obligations of the current agreement, review operating models for library systems across Virginia, identify the peer group of counties and cities utilized in the analysis, offer an assessment of the JMRL services and a peer review related to those communities, offer some of the challenges the County would face in transitioning to a County-owned system, and consider recommendations for the Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Elliott said that the Library Analysis Scope of Work was released several weeks ago for the Board and the Library Board. The staff has reviewed the current JMRL agreement; the County's contractual obligations; federal, state and local mandates relative library services; and a review of peer counties. He stated that the analysis also includes an overview of the CIP and operating budget impacts of the proposed library projects that have put in and out of the CIP. Mr. Elliott acknowledged the work done by Ms. White in preparing the analysis and conducting the peer review, and Mr. Halliday for his assistance and time.

He reported that the County is operating in a version of the Library Agreement that was established in 1991, which is a multi-jurisdictional agreement with the City of Charlottesville, and Albemarle, Nelson, Greene and Louisa Counties. Mr. Elliott stated that in terms of financial obligations for the County, there are three specific categories: The first is regional costs allocated based on each member's percentage of circulation for financial management, system costs and reference services. For Charlottesville and Albemarle, there is also a cost allocation based on circulation for the operation of Central Library, Gordon Avenue Library and Northside Library. The County is also responsible for 100% of the local costs of the operations of Crozet and Scottsville. Second, the County is required to participate in the Bookmobile, Monticello Avenue, and the McIntire Library. Per the agreement, these three elements are to be contracted separately with the City; however, in the course of the analysis nothing in writing was found to set forth those responsibilities and financial obligations.

Mr. Elliott stated that Albemarle currently provides approximately 59% of total operating funds for JMRL based on circulation and financial obligations listed above. Translating to actual dollars, in FY10 and carried forward to FY11, the County's financial obligations totaled approximately \$3.17 million done through one appropriation, with Albemarle's share of management and related system costs were 58% or \$847,000; reference services were 34%; and in Central and Gordon Avenue Libraries, the County's share was 61% and 55% respectively, followed by Northside where the share is 86%. He said that Northside's obligation is the greatest at \$856,000 a year followed by the management and system costs.

Mr. Rooker asked what is included in reference services.

Mr. Halliday stated that those are the central reference services provided from the Central Library, where there is a team of reference librarians offering support to any branch of the Library. They also manage all online databases and select all needed reference materials for the system. He stated that reference services are broken out as a separate cost in the 1991 regional agreement, and a separate statistic is used by jurisdiction, with Charlottesville paying about 66% of those costs.

Mr. Elliott reported that the Bookmobile is allocated based on circulation and based on the latest data, with Albemarle constituting about 74% of the Bookmobile circulation. He said that Monticello Avenue, which is the website and technology aspect of JMRL, is split 50/50 with the City, as well as the operation of the McIntire Library, which houses the historical collection for both the City and the County.

He said that the research and analysis points to four models in existence in Virginia: a regional approach similar to JMRL with costs split based on circulation and member jurisdictions responsible for local-only libraries; a regional system where the locality pays directly for the maintenance and upkeep of buildings, i.e., custodial, painting, general maintenance, etc., with a little bit of cost-share in the case of Scottsville and Crozet, and some CIP projects to maintain those libraries and costs split for Central and Gordon Avenue; single-county library systems that operate like any other local government department; and a single-library system with the IT platform for circulation being shared by a number of jurisdictions in that area, i.e., Roanoke County. In terms of peer group, Mr. Elliott stated that Roanoke, Henrico, Fauquier, and Chesterfield all operate county standalone systems, with Hanover, James City County, Stafford and Spotsylvania operating in a regional system.

He said that even though the county libraries listed have county-department structures they also have a policy-making board or an advisory board. In Fauquier, he said, they have a policy-making board that submits their annual budget to the Board of Supervisors and has an operating budget of \$1.9 million annually with one central library and two branches. Mr. Elliott reported that Roanoke has an advisory board system jointly funded with the IT, but has a central library and five branches and operates for approximately \$2.9 million each year. He said that Henrico's library system is about \$15 million per year with Chesterfield at about \$7.3 million per year. Mr. Elliott mentioned that the overall operating costs of the Rappahannock Regional Library system is \$12.0 million per year, with Stafford providing \$4.8 million annually in allocations. He said that Hanover allocates about \$2.8 million per year to the 10-library Pamunkey Library system; Williamsburg is in a jurisdiction with James City County that operates under an agreement that has nine member libraries, and it is based on circulation. Mr. Elliott reported that some systems have inter-library agreements with adjoining jurisdiction citizens able to use the libraries at no costs, or a small \$10.00 to \$15.00 annual fee for library use – as in Henrico with New Kent County and in Fauquier for some Northern Virginia libraries.

Mr. Elliott said that when they looked at the assessment of the JMRL level of service for this region, they concluded that based on statewide data and information Albemarle is getting good value for the dollars that it is investing in JMRL. JMRL delivers an efficient and effective library system when compared to other localities. He also said that in per capita spending, James City County leads with \$64.00 per person per year in library services, followed by Henrico at \$53.00 and Stafford at \$36.00, with Albemarle at \$33.00 ahead of Roanoke, Spotsylvania, Fauquier, Hanover and Chesterfield.

Mr. Thomas asked about the low per-capita staff and use of volunteers in the JMRL library system. Mr. Halliday responded that there are more volunteers than paid staff, which helps keep costs down.

Mr. Elliott reported that the JMRL system has a low number of staff per-capita, low staff expenditures relative to the overall budget, a low operating budget and one of the highest levels of state aid. He said that the state favors regional systems, and because Albemarle, and some of the other localities, is rural in nature it gets additional credit from the state for coming together as a regional system. Mr. Elliott noted that the Library systems receives between \$500,000 and \$600,000 per year in state aid but the state has been cutting back on that funding level in recent years, so the ability of the library system to purchase new books and materials has been hampered.

Mr. Halliday asked if he was going to address the rent at Northside.

Mr. Elliott responded that the rent at Northside is about \$250,000 per year, and taking that out of per-capita spending takes that down to \$31.00 per capita. He said that the state does not consider debt service as part of per-capita spending, and he did not feel the rent should be discounted because without that they would be paying debt service. Mr. Elliott stated that the borrowing has to be paid off with taxpayer dollars, and even at the \$31.00 Albemarle would be ahead of Hanover, Chesterfield and Fauquier.

Mr. Thomas asked if that was comparable to the School Board's CIP being in County government's operating budget. Mr. Elliott said he was looking at it in total, the total localities investment in library services. He added that if that was considered everyone's bar would be raised.

Mr. Thomas asked how the other localities handle construction. Mr. Elliott commented that Albemarle is unique in having the rental agreement which it has been paying for almost 20 years, as most localities pay for construction out of the CIP or borrow money.

Mr. Thomas commented that Northside is always a busy library. Mr. Elliott responded that Northside is the largest in the entire system with 500,000 volumes in circulation.

Ms. Mallek said that some localities are covering custodial operational costs with part of County government, and Albemarle assigns that to JMRL on their side. She added that they need to be careful when comparing apples to apples.

Mr. Elliott said that in Chesterfield, they are not necessarily fully allocating costs over to the library system and there are some functions of local government that do not charge an inter-service fee, which could be depressing the reported per-capita figure.

Mr. Rooker commented that a library has not been built in this community for quite some time. Mr. Halliday noted it had been three decades. Mr. Rooker asked who takes title to the real estate when a library is built. Would it be funded through the Library Board or directly by the County?

Mr. Elliott responded that the Northside facility has been programmed for funding in the past through the County's CIP, even though it is a joint City-County operation. He said that there would be a cost share with the City as far as capital investment and additional operating expenses, noting that Albemarle residents generate about 86% of Northside circulation today. You would assume that the City would contribute 14% of the cost at this time.

Mr. Rooker asked if the title of a property would be held by the Library Board in the case of a shared facility. Mr. Davis replied that the Downtown Library is jointly titled with the City and the County; Gordon Avenue was acquired by the City prior to the regional system and is held in their name although the County has contributed substantially to the building over the years. The agreement is not clear on the title issue. Mr. Davis said that if a joint library were purchased with both localities contributing to the cost, it would likely be jointly titled.

Mr. Elliott reported that JMRL maintains comparable service levels with its peers in library visits, collection size, print materials, computer usage, and the number of libraries in the system.

Ms. Mallek added that it is important to note that that is with fewer resources.

Mr. Elliott said that data showed that JMRL falls significantly below the median in several areas when compared to peer localities: video and audio materials, downloadable books, reference transactions, library programs, program attendance, number of computer terminals, and money spent on material collection. He stated that it could be said that what is depressing the performance relative to these indicators is the availability of space, as the system simply does not have the space of other peers to run certain programs. Mr. Elliott said that in the case of downloadable books, JMRL put that into place in November and has seen an explosion in the use of that service since it has been operable.

Mr. Rooker asked if the books are downloadable through the website.

Mr. Halliday explained that audio books or eBooks can be downloaded through the Library's website to computer, iPod, MP3 Player, Sony Reader, etc., but not Kindle because their technology is currently proprietary, and will not allow someone to read free books on their product. Mr. Halliday said that JMRL has several thousand books available but this is expected to grow and the use is very heavy. He added that the busiest downloadable service day was Christmas, as people likely got devices they could use for eBooks.

Mr. Grant pointed out that the program was all funded through a grant from Friends of the Library, not through operating funds.

Mr. Elliott reported that it is possible that JMRL lags in the reference material area because UVA has such a renowned collection nearby. He also reported that almost 46% of the circulation at JMRL is attributable to children's books, and because of the limited space may not be able to have as many programs in this area as peer localities. Mr. Elliott said that historically JMRL has used state aid to purchase materials for the collection rather than turn to the localities, which could drive some of the per-capita data.

Mr. Elliott stated that all peer library systems have reduced their library budgets utilizing different methodologies with some having specific targets, some imposing across-the-board reductions, some having specific service level changes such as closing the library early on a low-demand day. He said that as of yet the State has not reduced funding to jurisdictions because of those cuts.

Mr. Halliday noted that the State cut the library funding to Nottoway and Craig Counties due to disproportionate cuts to their library's budget. Mr. Halliday also said that this would likely happen to one of JMRL's peer localities with the key being proportionate cutting in relation to other jurisdictional cuts.

Mr. Boyd asked how much of the library's budget comes from the state. Mr. Halliday responded that it is about \$600,000, or 10%.

Mr. Townsend said that if the State were to fully fund it, it would be approximately \$1.0 million per year.

Mr. Elliott stated that the Board had asked what it would take for Albemarle to withdraw from the system, but based on the data from peer localities the County is currently getting a very good deal from the dollars it invests in JMRL. He added they could not find at the present time a case that would say it would be less expensive on an operating basis to move forward with that. Mr. Elliott said that the challenges in such a transition include the agreement stating that a committee would be formed to determine the value of assets a jurisdiction would be entitled to if it were to withdraw, and there is no specificity as to how that would work. Mr. Elliott said that the asset disposition would have to consider that the Central Library is assessed at \$3.2 million with one-half shared by the City, Gordon Avenue had a foundation donate the land so the County's share is more complicated to ascertain, and there is no methodology in the agreement regarding the division and payout of the County's interest in furniture, equipment, assets, etc. He added that there is also great uncertainty with the start-up costs, as JMRL already has a standing IT infrastructure and the County would have to develop its own IT services and reference services. Mr. Elliott said that the space factor is also an issue, with Northside at 15,000 square feet and if the County were to withdraw from JMRL it would only be able to offer citizens 21,000 square feet of space for a population of 90,000, with .2 square feet per capita, far below the state recommendation of .6 or .7 square feet.

Mr. Elliott said that there were some recommendations in the report. The report indicates that economically, the County is getting a good value for its dollars, and based on the lack of facilities and challenges, there does not appear to be an argument for the County to pursue its own library system at this time. One item uncovered in the report was the outer area assessment. It is staff's recommendation that staff take a closer look at how this is done. A number of years ago it was determined that the County

would take responsibility for all of the out-of-area circulation so use of those facilities by adjoining county residents would be tabbed to Albemarle. If another jurisdiction that is not in the system uses a City/County facility, the County is also responsible for that circulation. It was also a handshake agreement that the City was determined to be responsible for any circulation attributable to UVA students, and no data indicates that there is much growth in the UVA use, unlike the growth in outer areas.

Mr. Halliday clarified that if someone from Waynesboro uses the Greene County Library, the usage is counted toward that particular library. If somebody from Waynesboro uses Louisa County Library, that usage is counted towards Louisa.

Mr. Rooker asked what if someone from Waynesboro uses the Downtown Library. Mr. Halliday responded that that is counted towards Albemarle.

Mr. Snow asked for a number as to how many out of area students use the libraries.

Mr. Halliday responded that about 3,000 out-of-area college and private school students use the library system, and those are credited to Charlottesville.

Mr. Grant pointed out that there are 4,450 outsiders that come to JMRL but there are 4,510 Albemarle residents that use outside libraries.

Mr. Rooker noted that he is aware that some people use the Orange Library.

Mr. Halliday said the report is excellent and he agrees that out-of-area should be looked at.

Mr. Dorrier said the users in the Scottsville area are some of the poorest of the poor, who use the computers to work on their resumes and job applications. He suggested contacting Mr. Don Weaver, whose Fluvanna constituents use the Scottsville Library to see about their allocating some funds for their citizen's usage.

Ms. Mallek noted that about 30% of Scottsville's circulation is Fluvanna and Buckingham.

Mr. Elliott stated that the County and JMRL should come to some written understanding with the City that stipulate roles, responsibilities and financial obligations, and at the same time look at the out-of-area assessment and how it can be more equitable. He added that it may be determined that it is fair the way it is, but at least it could be documented, and not just based on a handshake.

Mr. Rooker asked how a UVA student who lives in the County and uses the Downtown Library would be counted. Mr. Halliday replied that they would be counted as a County resident, and if they are a dorm resident they are counted as City. Mr. Rooker commented that most of the dorms are located in the County. Mr. Halliday said he still thinks they are counted as City, but can look at that.

Mr. Elliott said that the study did not find any jurisdiction that was doing anything much different than what JMRL is doing. He stated that the City and County shares are included in the existing JMRL agreement, but the out-of-area libraries are not covered.

Mr. Rooker noted that if JMRL asks for contributions from outside users, those localities could come in and do the same thing, i.e., Orange County has asked Albemarle. He added that there is a precedent for Albemarle not doing that in reverse.

Ms. Mallek commented that perhaps some other localities could be enticed to join the regional system, especially those that have had large population growth and commuters working in Charlottesville.

In terms of improving budget and performance information, Mr. Elliott said the report recommends developing performance measures for key performance indicators consistent with peer communities and implement a quarterly reporting system. Mr. Halliday has indicated that the Library Board already tracks

on a pretty consistent basis a number of these indicators and it is just a matter of asking to have this shared with the County on a quarterly basis. Another recommendation is that the Board may consider making appropriations by functional area versus one lump sum, and have it mirror what the agreement specifically says so there is a better track of where those dollars are going, i.e. regional services, City/County services, local services, or other side agreements.

Mr. Elliott said that the budget document from JMRL to the County is made by January 15 of each year. If the document mirrored the County's format, it could perhaps include a breakdown of staffing level by functional area or branch; actual expenditures for expenditures for the previous year, as the current document submitted to OMB has a budget-to-budget current year to proposed budget.

Mr. Rooker stated that is very important, because it is valuable to see what has been spent and not just what was budgeted.

Mr. Elliott said that they may also want more detailed description of any major budget variances, adding that from FY05-09, the Board did allocate additional funding for expanded services. He stated that the Board could possibly request from JMRL how those dollars are spent and what the result of that is, such as expanded operating hours and how many additional patrons were served because of the change. Mr. Elliott noted that when the JMRL budget is submitted to the County, the Library does not know what they will be getting from the State or allocations from Friends of the Library, and that information is left blank.

He stated that one of the recommendations related to the Library Board structure would require an amendment to the agreement because the County provides 60% of the funds to the system but only has one-third representation on the Board. This Board may want to consider how it might get greater representation on the Library Board for the dollars invested. Mr. Elliott said that within the next two years the Board would have some pretty significant decisions to make on key leadership appointees to JMRL, as Mr. Townsend and Mr. Tolson would have their terms expire and will not be eligible to renew them. As the Board begins to vet interested parties to serve on the Library Board, it needs to consider attributes, roles and responsibilities to carry forward.

Mr. Grant commented that he is eligible for another term, but his current term expires in June 2011.

Ms. Mallek asked if most of the decisions the Library Board has made have been somewhat unanimous, and if any of them have been detrimental to the County in any way.

Mr. Townsend responded that in the eight years he has been on the Board, he can count on one hand the number of decisions that were not unanimous, and those were usually because of an abstention due to absence.

Ms. Coy stated that when she joined the Board as a representative from Nelson County, it was made clear that she was charged with considering regional needs, not just that County's.

Mr. Elliott reported that one frustration factor for everyone in the room, and one they do not have much control over, is the County's inability to move forward with capital investment in libraries. He noted that the timing of what was previously in the CIP was locked and loaded to go during the five year period, and many peer jurisdictions were ahead of that curve and have expanded their facilities. With a reduction in the CIP of over \$100.0 million, Albemarle had to unfortunately put a break on a number of library projects. Mr. Elliott said that in looking at the five library projects that were included in previous CIPs, there was an investment of approximately \$42.0 million over a 10-year period, including Crozet, Northern, Central Library renovations, the Southern Urban Library project, and the Scottsville renovation. Mr. Elliott noted that this would mean about \$4.2 million in debt service on top of the \$3.0 million invested today plus additional operating costs for the new facilities.

Mr. Thomas asked if there is any money in the maintenance budget to deal with the roof at the Central Library.

Mr. Elliott responded that there are projects in the CIP that are maintenance only that address libraries over the next few years, but he is not sure of the scope.

Mr. Letteri stated that there are no major funds for the Central Library at this time.

Mr. Thomas expressed concern about leaks ruining the books.

Mr. Halliday stated that there are no leaks at this point that have not been repaired.

Mr. Elliott said that this is a good opportunity to evaluate what impact things such as downloadable books and self-checkout might have on operations and facilities. He is not suggesting peeling back the two previous planning studies, but to monitor how, over the next several years, and look at CIP projects again. He added that thought should also be given to take a look at the County's urban ring and evaluate what effect Crozet, Northside, and the Southern Urban Library will have on the County's investment of facilities within the City limits. He stated that the Neighborhood Model suggests that County facilities be put into neighborhoods, so future County use of libraries within City limits might shift outward.

Mr. Rooker commented that many school systems are going to iPads instead of textbooks and kids coming along are computer-screen oriented, and he asked how the Library is viewing this trend.

Mr. Halliday responded that while people are using more electronic devices, they are still using books. The book circulation over the past two years is the highest in JMRL history.

Mr. Dorrier said that there is a massive shift in focus from books to computers. Albemarle is poised in a unique position, adding that everything the Library Board is focusing on align with the County's Economic Vitality Action Plan. He added Albemarle County can be a leader in the State in this process.

Mr. Halliday noted that in 1991 when the regional agreement was struck there were very few personal computers, but it is now a big part of the library business and computers should be worked into a performance measure when looking at libraries. The libraries are doing a great deal for economic development in the community.

Mr. Boyd asked if the Library was beginning to accumulate data on these trends, and wondered if there were more users or just more books.

Mr. Halliday responded that library registrations went from 50,000-55,000 twenty years ago, with 90,000-95,000 ten years ago, and 100,000-105,000 now. He said that he thinks that is what is driving the circulation, not a few people checking out more books.

Mr. Boyd commented that he went into Alderman Library a couple of days ago, and saw a sea of terminals. He did not find many people wondering around the book aisles. Mr. Tolson said that there are people sitting in the stacks in Alderman studying. The reading room is downstairs on the second floor, and it is usually packed.

Mr. Halliday added that 17% of people coming through the doors use the internet, but in Crozet that figure is 8%, so if there were more computers perhaps people would come in and use them.

Mr. Snow asked if that might be a function of broadband availability throughout the County.

Mr. Halliday responded that it may be a factor, and also many residents see the library as a third place outside of work and home where they can do some research, emails, etc. There are still some people who cannot afford computers, but it is a combination of things.

Ms. Mallek said that almost one-half of the users are children and parents who are getting things for their children, and a Kindle does not replace holding a book in your hand when you are a struggling reader because of illustrations and format, etc. She noted that the wrap-up party for the summer reading program in Crozet had about 300 kids.

Mr. Dorrier commented that the great thing about libraries is it covers everyone from kindergartners to seniors.

Mr. Halliday mentioned that computer use is not included in circulation, but if the regional agreement is updated it should be incorporated to ensure that every jurisdiction is paying its fair share of computer usage.

Mr. Townsend noted that since he has been on the Board, money has been spent on increasing bandwidth to the branches, which continues to get saturated. He said that there needs to be some caution with replacing paper books with eBooks, as that type of thing has been tried before and does not usually work out, such as Betamax vs. VHS tapes. Mr. Townsend added that you want to make sure that you are not jumping ahead of the technology too.

Mr. Rooker asked about the copyright arrangement with downloadable books.

Mr. Halliday explained that JMRL provides the service through a vendor, who works out the contracts with the publishers and authors. It varies from author to author as far as limitations.

Mr. Tolson noted that there is often a limit to the number of downloads and two weeks after your checkout period the book disappears from your machine, and you can only have two downloads at a time. He added with the technology, they limit what is available. Also, people can get on a waiting list for downloadable books the same as they would for a paper copy.

Ms. Rosenthal said that people also come to the library to get help from the Librarian, i.e., email and job searches.

Mr. Halliday commented that there are people who come into the library and have not used a mouse before.

Ms. Coy mentioned that the local schools count on the library for a project or things teachers have assigned and to be there when they are closed in the summer or on weekends. When you support the school system, it is also important to support the library system.

Mr. Plunkett emphasized that the point has been made this is a public library, which serves everybody.

Mr. Tolson mentioned that they had done a study of community leaders on trends in library space, and one need that has continued is meeting space for clients because it is free. He stated that it helps them get their business up and running. Nationally the space needs of libraries continue to increase for that reason. He added that books are not dead; their publication continues.

Mr. Elliott said that regarding recommendations related to next steps, he would suggest that the County Executive in conjunction with the JMRL Library Director convene meetings with the City Manager and other County Administrators in the Library system to review the study and develop recommendations regarding any amendments for consideration by their governing bodies. At the same time, he said, the recommendation is for the County Executive in conjunction for the City Manager and the JMRL Library

Director to develop specific agreements related to the operation of the Bookmobile, Monticello Avenue and McIntire Library, then present those agreements to the Board and City Council for adoption.

In regards to the first recommendation, Ms. Mallek asked about a formal commission type group to do a vision of regional wishes before a lot of staff time is spent.

Mr. Townsend said that was a good point, noting that there has not been a formal review of the entire regional agreement in almost 20 years. When Mr. Peter McIntosh came back on the Board he provided a good historical overview of the agreement. Originally every five years the agreement was looked at by each jurisdiction. He stated that the JMRL Board would welcome a formal process to sit down with all the jurisdictions to review the regional agreement through a commission, task force, etc. They would then draft a new regional agreement.

Mr. Dorrier commented that the new agreement could provide for funding from all the localities.

Mr. Elliott said that the question for the Board is whether that would be a staff-led initiative with the JMRL Director, as the study team suggests for simplicity purposes that the Director, County Executive, City Manager and County Administrators, work on it with input from the Library Board, with recommendations coming back to the respective governing bodies.

Mr. Rooker stated that the staff approach would be better and faster, given the number of jurisdictions involved. The staffs could report back to their respective governing bodies periodically.

Mr. Townsend said that he would be happy to serve as a facilitator, since his term expires in June, and would like to see the Library Trustees involved, with the project having a definite deadline. He agreed that having staff involved will make it a quicker process.

Mr. Foley suggested that staff work with Mr. Halliday as a starting point to set out a process.

Mr. Halliday suggested having County staff coming up with a proposed process for reviewing the regional agreement which he would take to the Library Board, so that it does not look like Albemarle is driving this.

Mr. Foley agreed, adding that even getting a first step done would be helpful. He reiterated that this process would be driven by timelines, staff, with broader input from elected officials and Library Trustees.

Mr. Townsend said that one of the report recommendations is to define the Library Board members roles and responsibilities overall in the regional agreement.

Mr. Dorrier asked about using the TJPDC. Mr. Townsend said that they could be used for demographic information about the region.

Mr. Boyd said that what spurred this whole discussion was how monies are spent, and that needs to be zeroed in on as Albemarle felt that it did not have control over its \$3.0 million investment. This Board feels that, as elected officials, it should have some control over how County money is spent.

Mr. Snow said that that was one of the recommendations in the study that was led by Ms. White, to have a clear picture of all incoming revenues and all expenditures, by line item.

Mr. Rooker emphasized that it needs to be understood that the Library Board is a separate, independent board, and the County will never direct their line-by-line expenditures under the current system. He said that there are counties that are not part of regional systems and operate libraries as departments.

Mr. Snow said that the County can make suggestions though, such as closing early on certain days and times that are slow.

Mr. Rooker said that is different than looking at their budget line by line.

Mr. Tolson stated that they do deliver detailed budgets to County staff.

Mr. Foley said that staff has been asked to address performance indicators as part of that process.

Ms. Mallek commented that there are lots of different jurisdictions represented here, and it cannot be expected that the library have six different budgets. She does not quite support telling them to modify their budget to suit Albemarle.

Mr. Townsend stated that the Library Board Trustees are appointed by the Board of Supervisors, and he is charged with representing Albemarle's needs within the regional system.

Mr. Dorrier said it is also important to recognize that this is the first joint meeting of the Board and Library Board in 20 years.

Mr. Rooker said that anytime there are jurisdictions under budget stress, actions and their intentions can be misunderstood. He commented that the County should probably make better use of their appointees in that regard, having them come in periodically and address the Board.

Mr. Dorrier commented that Mr. Grant has been active in seeking out public forums to discuss libraries.

Mr. Boyd also stated that people may not realize whether they live in the City or County in terms of circulation.

Mr. Halliday explained that the library double-checks stated residence, noting that it is likely that more County people live in the City than vice versa.

Mr. Foley clarified the process moving forward, stating that he and Mr. Halliday should meet and discuss the report, then get together with representatives from the other jurisdictions get together to develop a process that assures Board members and Trustees are involved. He added that, along with the other County Administrators, they could get together and agree on a process as to how to move forward.

Mr. McIntosh said he hopes they do not lose this opportunity to make an overture to Fluvanna County. Fluvanna was part of the regional agreement for the first 18 years. There is a lot of overflow from Fluvanna going to Scottsville.

Mr. Snow asked about Buckingham.

Mr. Halliday responded that Buckingham County is part of another regional system.

Mr. Tolson commented that the Mont-Avenue, McIntire Library and Bookmobile Agreement would also have to be presented to the JMRL Board, not just the Board and City Council.

Ms. Mallek said she would like to receive quarterly reports on the progress.

Mr. Boyd stated that any inter-jurisdictional agreement would have to be approved by all the localities in order to move forward.

Mr. Snow asked for everyone to introduce themselves, and participants did so.

Mr. Bill Schrader, a member of Friends of the Library, said that the TRAIN report and the previous joint City/County report should be included as appendices to this study in order to provide some context and background information. This information will give an indication of the future of Crozet and the new Northside Library. He added that this was a well done report.

Ms. Mallek thanked everyone for coming.

At 10:36 a.m., the Library Board formally adjourned its meeting.

---