

https://www.gillette-news-record.com/news/local/article_55f80dbd-cdde-551b-b987-e2ceb89474f6.html

TOP STORY

Library board elects new officers; board member resigns

By JONATHAN GALLARDO News Record Writer jgallardo@gillette-news-record.net

Jul 27, 2022

The Campbell County Public Library Board went through some changes in its first meeting of the new fiscal year.

Mandy Steward announced her resignation, effective at the end of the meeting Monday. She said something came up in her life that would no longer allow her to make the library board a priority.

"I've enjoyed serving and I appreciate everything I've learned," said Steward, who was appointed to the board in the summer of 2021 and had two years left on her term.

The commissioners will pick a new board member for this vacant seat at their meeting next week.

The board also elected new officers. Sage Bear, who was appointed to the board in April, was unanimously elected as the board chair. Charles Butler was selected to be the vice chair, and Chelsie Collier was voted treasurer. Butler and Collier were just appointed to the board at the beginning of July.

Collier asked library director Terri Lesley about how she's dealing with the \$32,600 cut in 1% funding for children's and teen books and programming.

“It is a painful cut, but we’ll get through it,” Lesley said.

Lesley said youth services librarian Darcy Acord will be attending a conference put on by the Young Adult Library Services Association later this year.

Bear asked which organization was behind this conference, and she said she’d like to learn more information about it.

Retired librarian Janet Tharp asked the library board to lobby the commissioners to restore the Optional 1% Sales Tax, and that they support Acord as she works with the budget cut.

Laura Cox said she doesn’t have an issue with any adult’s lifestyle, but that when it comes to kids, it’s an entirely different thing.

“If the library insists on stocking sexually graphic books and keeping them accessible to kids, it’s promoting sex to minors. Period,” she said.

Hugh Bennett said the cut is just a drop in the bucket compared to the library’s total budget of \$3.8 million.

“Every family in Gillette has been required, by circumstances beyond our control, to hand a much larger cut than that,” he said.

Jonathan Gallardo