

LRB – FISCAL REVIEW SECTION ANALYSIS

FINANCE AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

ITEM 12, FILE 040119

JUNE 9, 2004

ANGELYN WARD

File #040119 is a resolution relative to the acceptance of a Shipshape Grant by Milwaukee Public Library.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

1. This resolution authorizes the Milwaukee Public Library (MPL) to accept and fund a Shipshape Grant from the Wisconsin Department of Administration. This is a joint project between MPL and Wisconsin Marine Historical Society (WMHS). The purpose of the project is to convert over 7,000 Great Lakes vessel files from paper format to a computerized database. *This is a new grant.*
2. The WMHS is dedicated to discovering, collecting, recording, preserving and disseminating materials related to Great Lakes maritime history. Since 1959, the WMHS and MPL have collaborated and developed the most extensive depositories of Great Lakes historical materials in existence, the Great Lakes Marine Collection. Many files are on acid laden paper, causing the photos and articles to deteriorate. In recent years, the collection has also become a victim to theft.
3. The vessel files are the most heavily used part of the collection. Each ship file contains historical data: photographs of the vessel, magazine and newspaper articles about the ship, when it was built and for whom, who was the captain, type of cargo, when it sink and if the wreck has been found, and other facts pertinent to marine researchers and the general public. Each vessel is listed in *CountyCat*, the library's online catalog, by the name of the vessel as the title of a book, and the names of the owners and captains as the authors.
4. With the grant funding the paper archival vessel files will be converted into an electronic format to facilitate the daily updating of the records and to provide for its preservation. Data entry staff will be hired to supplement the work of the WMHS and its volunteers, consolidating information from various WMHS databases. Future phases of project may include loading the information on the MPL website.
5. The funding is for staff, volunteers and purchasing of computer equipment.

FISCAL IMPACT

1. The total for the Shipshape Grant is \$125,000. The Wisconsin Department of Administration provides \$50,000, 40%; and the City in-kind share is \$75,000, 60%, which includes \$17,246 in salary and fringe benefits; \$57,754 of MPL volunteer and computer time and WMHS volunteer and computer equipment.
2. The grant period is from July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005.

Cc: Barry Zalben
W. Martin Morics
Joseph Czarnecki

Kate Huston
Virginia Schwartz
Taj Schoening

Prepared by: Angelyn Ward, (286-8661)
LRB-Fiscal Review Section
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