

Law Library Board of Trustee Meeting Minutes from January 20, 2021 meeting. Those in attendance were Emmalie Brudzinski, Jacob Grussing, Barbara Weckmann Brekke, The Honorable Colleen Goggins King and Jody Kieser Kisting.

Due to the COVID 19 Pandemic, the Scott County Law Library was closed to walk-in patrons during the months of March – June, 2020. Ms. Brudzinski was working remotely and was able to serve law library patrons via e-mail, mail, and telephone. In June, the law library re-opened and patrons were able to go to the law library for in-person assistance. A telephone was made available to patrons just outside the library suite enabling patrons to first communicate their questions to the librarian over the phone in order to minimize face-to-face contact for questions that could be answered without patrons having to enter into the library room. Due to the size of the library, during the pandemic, only four people are allowed in the law library at a time in order to observe social distancing requirements.

The Scott County Government Center is currently under construction and it is anticipated that within the next month, the law library will be temporarily relocated to the third floor landing of the Scott County Justice Center near the elevator bank.

Many court hearings in Minnesota have been conducted via Zoom during the pandemic. Emmalie has worked with Scott County Court Administration to facilitate library patrons' use of Zoom in order to attend court hearings. The law library began providing Zoom access in August 2020 and the number of patrons utilizing this service has increased steadily since that time. Consideration is being given to adding a second computer terminal as sometimes, more than one patron needs to Zoom access at the same time. Walk-in Zoom users are accepted but it is preferable if an appointment to use the computer is made in advance in order to ensure access to the equipment and assistance with accessing Zoom if needed. Patrons call make appointments by calling Ms. Brudzinski at 952-496-8713.

Another new program in the works has resulted from collaboration between Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services and the Scott County Law Library. The organizations are working to provide technology options to legal aid clients from the Scott County Law Library. The groups are working toward the possibility of legal aid clients being able to utilize a computer at the law library for communicating privately with their legal aid attorneys.

Despite the changes to how we conduct business during the pandemic, the law library has still been able to provide legal clinics. Clinic dates can be found on the Scott County website. Family Law Clinics will be taking place on February 8, 2021; March 8, 2021; and April 12, 2021. Legal Advice Clinics are scheduled for January 28, 2021; February 11, 2021; February 25, 2021; March 11, 2021 and March 25, 2021. Patrons interested in participating in a clinic can call Ms. Brudzinski at 952-496-8713 to schedule a time to participate.

