

CHAPTER 80  
SHEBOYGAN COUNTY FEDERATED LIBRARY SYSTEM

- 80.01 PURPOSE
- 80.02 JOINT FEDERATED PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM ESTABLISHED
- 80.03 GOVERNING BOARD
- 80.04 RESOURCES LIBRARY DESIGNATED
- 80.05 FINANCING THE LIBRARY SYSTEM

80.01 PURPOSE. The purpose of this Ordinance is to establish a Joint Federated Public Library System within the geographical boundaries of Sheboygan, Ozaukee, Dodge, and Washington Counties. It is hereby intended that each municipal public library be retained and maintained and that existing library boards retain autonomy with regard to providing library services within their individual community. The Joint Federated Public Library System is intended to support, extend, and supplement the resources and services of the present public libraries operating in Sheboygan, Ozaukee, Dodge, and Washington Counties so as to make accessible to their county residents a wider variety of public library benefits.

80.02 JOINT FEDERATED PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM ESTABLISHED. There is hereby established a Joint Federated Public Library System for Sheboygan, Ozaukee, Dodge, and Washington Counties ("Library System") as described in Wis. Stat. § 43.19(1)(b) which system shall be in effect for all of Sheboygan County, all of Ozaukee County, all of Dodge County, and all of Washington County, which shall be known as the **MONARCH LIBRARY SYSTEM**.

80.03 GOVERNING BOARD. Pursuant to the provisions of Wis. Stat. § 43.19 the Library System shall be governed by a board to be known as the Monarch Library System Board consisting of fifteen (15) members; four (4) members shall be appointed by the Sheboygan County Board, three (3) members shall be appointed by the Ozaukee County Board, three (3) members shall be appointed by the Dodge County Board, and five (5) members shall be appointed by the Washington County Board. (The Sheboygan County appointments shall be subject to confirmation by the full County Board.)

- (1) Membership. Sheboygan County membership of the Board shall be composed of four (4) members, including one (1) member from the County Board, one (1) member from the governing board of the resource library, one (1) member of a participating local library board, and one (1) member-at-large.
- (2) Term. The members initially appointed shall be divided as nearly as possible into three (3) equal groups to serve for terms expiring on January 1 of the second, third, and fourth years, respectively, following their appointment. Thereafter, regular terms shall be for three (3) years and shall commence on January 1. Vacancies shall be filled for the unexpired term in the same manner as regular appointments are made.
- (3) Board Organization. As soon as practicable after the initial establishment of the System, and thereafter in January of each year, the Board shall organize by the election, from among its members, a president and such other officers as it deems necessary.
- (4) Powers and Duties. The System Board shall possess the powers expressly declared in Wis. Stat. §§ 43.58 and 43.60 and shall have such duties as set forth in Wis. Stat. § 43.17 and as may be delegated to it from time to time by the County Board, subject, however, to the statutory limitations of Wis. Stat. ch. 43 and particularly those which provide that local library boards shall retain responsibility for their own public libraries.

80.04 RESOURCES LIBRARY DESIGNATED. The resource library (also known as the headquarters library) for the Library System shall be the City of Sheboygan-Mead Public Library. As such, this library will serve as a reference and information referral center for

inquiries from participating libraries.

80.05 FINANCING THE LIBRARY SYSTEM. Budget responsibility for the Library System shall rest with Sheboygan, Ozaukee, Dodge, and Washington Counties. The Library System is a joint agency of those counties but constitutes a separate legal entity for the following purposes: To have the exclusive custody and control of all System funds; to hold title to and dispose of property; to construct, enlarge, and improve buildings; to make contracts; and to sue and be sued.

- (1) Exemption from Levy. The County Board shall levy a tax to provide funds for the Library System and shall include the amount of any such tax in the general County tax. Any city, town, or village in Sheboygan County shall be exempted from that portion of the general County tax allocated for the Library System operation if such city, town, or village expends for a library fund, during the year for which the tax levy is made, a sum at least equal to the sum which it would have paid toward the County tax levy for the Library System in the prior year.
- (2) State Aid. Sheboygan, Ozaukee, Dodge, and Washington Counties and the Library System Board shall take all steps necessary to obtain available state funds for the operation of the Library System.

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History: Ord. 7 (2015/16); Ord. 9 (2019/17);