



# Board of County Commissioners Agenda Request

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Agenda Item #

**Requested Meeting Date:** April 28, 2020

**Title of Item:** Curbside Service of Library Materials in Aitkin County

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> REGULAR AGENDA	<b>Action Requested:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Direction Requested
<input type="checkbox"/> CONSENT AGENDA	<input type="checkbox"/> Approve/Deny Motion	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Item
<input type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION ONLY	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopt Resolution (attach draft)	<input type="checkbox"/> Hold Public Hearing*

*\*provide copy of hearing notice that was published*

<b>Submitted by:</b> Jessica Seibert	<b>Department:</b> Administration
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<b>Presenter (Name and Title):</b> Jessica Seibert, County Administrator	<b>Estimated Time Needed:</b>
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**Summary of Issue:**

Guidance from the MN Department of Education has indicated that libraries may be deemed essential services during this Stay at Home Executive Order and work to provide contactless delivery of library materials. The ECRL Board this week agreed and they've developed a plan to begin safely providing materials via a contactless curbside pickup.

They respect their partnership with local governments in providing library services and our key role in providing the funding for services. They feel that curbside pickup will allow them to provide essential educational and recreational materials to our citizens that allow them to continue to stay home and social distance successfully. Before they begin this service in our county, they wish to know our desire if we would like them to provide the service.

**Alternatives, Options, Effects on Others/Comments:**

**Recommended Action/Motion:**

**Financial Impact:**

Is there a cost associated with this request?  Yes  No

What is the total cost, with tax and shipping? \$

Is this budgeted?  Yes  No *Please Explain:*

Guidance from the Minnesota Department of Education regarding Library Service during  
COVID-19 Pandemic (emphasis added)

The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) recognizes the need for a locality to balance the needs of the community with the health and safety of library staff and patrons. In that light, the guidance we have provided is permissive; it allows the locality to make the final determination within set parameters.

Based on a review of Executive Order 20.20, MDE has determined that public library services may be deemed as essential during the COVID 19 pandemic. Within a library's ability to provide for social distancing and the regular disinfecting and sanitation of library materials and to follow Minnesota Department of Health and Centers for Disease Control health and safety protocols, it may remain open to provide distance (online, digital, virtual) services and **no contact curbside pickup of materials**.

As a community based government organization, **a library may be considered a priority service by its political subdivision and be exempt from Executive Order 20.20 as a critical sector**. In that case, a library's political subdivision may determine necessary minimum staffing under the order.

Consistent with MDH and CDC guidelines for social distancing and safety, libraries should not be providing in person services. The ability of library users to use no contact curbside services is permitted as an exemption that promotes the welfare of Minnesotans and library materials may be considered as necessary supplies under the order.

With my regards,  
Jen

**Jennifer R. Nelson**  
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