

SUFFERN FREE LIBRARY
ANNUAL ASSOCIATION MEETING/FEBRUARY 25, 2020

Trustees Present: Craig H. Long, Warren E. Berbit, Mario F. Pensa, Karen Bash-Romaner, Donalee Berard, Erb Cooper, Michael Minevich

Absent and Excused: James J. Galvin, Ben Naylor

Staff Present: Carol Connell Cannon, Library Director

Public Present: Jean R. Gould, Dr. Nancy Grosselfinger, Joyce Nencetti, Mark Murphy, Robert Rosenthal

President Craig H. Long called the 94th Annual Board Meeting to order at 8:06 p.m. A quorum was established. The President welcomed the Board of Trustees and guests, and asked that all rise to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

The President asked the Board and audience to review the February 26, 2019 minutes as received.

MOTION

A motion was made by Jean R. Gould, seconded by Donalee Berard, and carried to accept the minutes of the February 26, 2019 Annual Meeting. Motion approved.

Abstention: Warren E. Berbit

Treasurer's Report –Mario F. Pensa

Mario F. Pensa read the Treasurer's report for the fiscal year July 1, 2018 –June 30, 2019 and for the first half of the current fiscal year July 1, 2019 –December 31, 2019. (Report Attached)

MOTION

A motion was made by Donalee Berard, seconded by Warren E. Berbit, and carried to accept the Treasurer's Annual Report as presented. The motion approved unanimously.

President's Report –Craig H. Long

President Craig H. Long reflected on the highlights of 2019, most notably the continuing growth in the area of programming. In the past year over 18,000 people attended Library programs. The President commended the strong Story Time statistics as well as the expansion and participation in the Young Adult programs.

~The President thanked the book sale volunteers for their dedication and hard work, noting that in 2019, the Library held daily lobby sales, six book sales and two preview sales, netting \$25,332 for the Library.

Budget Information –Donalee Berard

~Donalee Berard reviewed the Library’s budget for FY 2020-2021. The Board will present a total budget of \$3,284,315 which is an increase of \$41,938 from the current fiscal year. The amount of the budget that is to be raised by real property taxes remains within the NYS Tax Cap of 1.0181%. Increases in expenses include Library materials, modest 2% increase in salaries, and less than 1% in benefits.

~The Board will present the Budget for public Vote on Tuesday, April 28, 2020. Voting will be held at the Library between the hours of 10AM and 9PM.

The President asked Vice President Warren E. Berbit, to announce the Trustee election results:

James J. Galvin – 2 year term to fill an unexpired seat

Craig H. Long – 3 year term

Mark Murphy – 3 year term

Karen Bash-Romaner – 3 year term

MOTION

Donalee Berard motioned, seconded by Mario F. Pensa, and carried to accept and declare Craig H. Long, Mark Murphy and Karen Bash-Romaner Trustees for 3 year terms of office. Trustee James J. Galvin for 2 year term of office to complete the unexpired term of Christine Gigante. Motion approved.

Public Comment:

~Jean R. Gould commended the Board of Trustees for their handling and maintaining the Library’s Capital Fund Investments.

~Dr. Nancy Grosselfinger expressed support for a computer lab room in the Adult Reference Area. In addition, she praised the Book-a-Librarian Program. Dr. Grosselfinger asked about the Library’s Retirement Plan for employees. President Craig H. Long explained that the Library’s sponsored pension plan is with TIAA (Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association).

~Mr. Robert Rosenthal in response to the computer lab room noted the importance of the public having the ability to learn basic computer skills at the Library.

President Craig H. Long thanked the guests for the attendance and their comments.

MOTION

A motion was made by Erb Cooper, seconded by Mr. Robert Rosenthal, and carried to adjourn the Annual Association meeting at 9:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Bash-Romaner
Secretary

