

SUFFERN FREE LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 24, 2023

Meeting Called to Order:

President Craig H. Long called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. A quorum was present.

Trustees Present: Craig H. Long, Mario F. Pensa, Karen Bash-Romaner, Donalee Berard, Erb Cooper, James J. Galvin, Michael Minevich, Mark Murphy

Absent and Excused: Warren E. Berbit

Staff Present: Darlene Alessi, Director

Public Present: Dr. Nancy Grosselfinger
Suffern High School Student

President Craig H. Long welcomed the Board of Trustees and guests. Introductions were made.

Review of the Minutes of December 20, 2022

MOTION

A motion was made by Donalee Berard, seconded by Mark Murphy, and carried to accept the Minutes of December 20, 2022.

Financial Report -Mario F. Pensa

Mario F. Pensa reported from the Treasurer's December 2022 Cash Balance Sheet and Financial Statement.

- Operating funds \$199,406.
- Total Operating Funds reported at \$3,177,521.
- NFS Investment Funds reported at \$2,189,940.
- Total Reserve Funds reported at \$2,642,011.
- Total Funds \$5,819,531.
- Variable income reported at \$10,920.
- Expenses reported at \$248,066.
- Income is running as per estimated budget by \$185,089 primarily due to Cash Grants.
- Current operational expenses are within the estimated fiscal budget.

MOTION

A motion was made by Donalee Berard, seconded by Karen Bash-Romaner, and carried to accept the financial report as presented. Motion approved unanimously.

Director's Report –Darlene Alessi

The Director referred to several highlights of her written report that was submitted prior to the meeting. (Report attached)

~Book Sale

The January book sale netted \$2,310 for the Library.

~Administrative

- *Frontline and RCLS* worked on computers as per contracts.

~Building

- Five proposals have been received from mechanical engineering companies. Darlene recommends narrowing it to two companies.
- The new fire alarm monitoring company is *Electrolock Inc.*
- EV charge stations will be put on hold for the time being.

The Director reported that the book drop machine is not in service due to mechanical issues. Until that is resolved, the option is to revert to a bin so patrons can use the book drop.

In addition, the Director reported that credit card/debit payments through ProPay are no longer compatible with the new computer system, therefore, will be transitioning to Square credit card readers.

Committee Reports:

~Building and Grounds –Mario F. Pensa

Mario F. Pensa reviewed five proposals submitted by mechanical engineering companies. Mario recommends narrowing it to three proposals and interviewing each company to determine which company qualifies.

~Finance Committee –Warren E. Berbit, Mario F. Pensa, Donalee Berard

Donalee Berard reported that the Committee reviewed the Director's draft budget. Based on the budget, the 2% real property tax increase and modifications are satisfactory.

~Personnel Committee –Warren E. Berbit, Karen Bash-Romaner, James J. Galvin, Michael Minevich

James J. Galvin reported that the Committee is working on the Director's annual evaluation.

~Policy Committee –Erb Cooper, Karen Bash-Romaner, James J. Galvin

No Report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

~Health Insurance

At the request of the Board, the Director provided several health insurance companies for consideration and costs for comparison purposes. Based on those comparisons, James J. Galvin noted that NYSHIP, the Library's current health insurance company surpasses the other choices.

MOTION

A motion was made by Mark Murphy, seconded by Michael Minevich to accept the Director's proposal for Suffern Free Library to contribute 75% of the cost for health insurance coverage for enrolled employees and 25% of the cost to be paid by the employee.

A discussion followed.

President Craig H. Long called the question on the motion and called for a roll call vote with three in favor: Michael Minevich, Mark Murphy, and President Craig H. Long, and five against: James J. Galvin, Karen Bash-Romaner, Erb Cooper, Mario F. Pensa, and Donalee Berard. The motion was defeated.

A discussion followed.

Erb Cooper proposed an alternative which is that the Library contribute 70% of the cost for health insurance coverage for enrolled employees and 30% of the cost to be paid by the employee.

A discussion followed.

President Craig H. Long called for a roll call vote for the Suffern Free Library to contribute 70% of the cost for health insurance coverage for enrolled employees and 30% of the cost to be paid by the employee. Six in favor: Donalee Berard, Mark Murphy, Karen Bash-Romaner, Michael Minevich, President Craig H. Long, and two against: Mario F. Pensa, and James J. Galvin. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

~Budget Vote

Darlene Alessi informed the Board that the Budget Vote for the Suffern Free Library and Sloatsburg Public Library will be held on April 25, 2023.

President Craig H. Long reminded the Board that at the December meeting, Donalee Berard reported that the NYS Property Tax Cap is 2%. With that said, the Library has the option to override the NYS Tax Cap limit of 2% should unanticipated factors cause the limit to be exceeded in the final budgeted process.

~Tax Cap

MOTION

A motion was made by Donalee Berard, seconded by Karen Bash-Romaner, that as a precaution, the Suffern Free Library is granted the right to exceed the 2% Tax Cap imposed by NYS law should unanticipated factors cause the limit to be exceeded in the final budgeted process. Motion approved unanimously.

~Public Comment: Dr. Nancy Grosselfinger

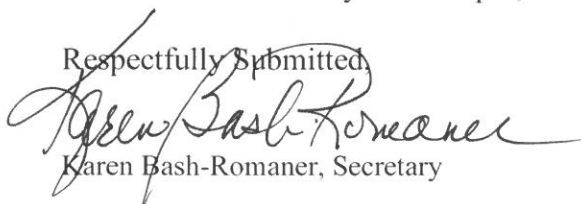
Dr. Nancy Grosselfinger recalled that when her mother, Anna W. (Val) Grosselfinger was on the Board of Trustees, the Board would have an event once a year and invite the staff. It was an opportunity for everyone to reacquaint and have a nice time. Dr. Grosselfinger advised the Board to consider bringing back that tradition.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION

A motion was made by Erb Cooper, seconded by Mark Murphy to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Karen Bash-Romaner, Secretary