

Approved Minutes December 17, 2024  
Edward U. Demmer Memorial Library  
Library Board of Trustees Meeting

Trustee Attendance: Patty Wallesverd, Dan McKissack (arrived 4:27pm), Dianna Blicharz, Jeff Boehm, Rich Mahlerwein, Kathleen Olkowski (arrived 4:04pm)

Excused: Karen Meyer

Other Attendees: Jill Roth, April Hansen

Rich Mahlerwein called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

**Agenda:**

Motion by Patty, seconded by Dianna to approve the agenda in any order. All ayes, motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Motion by Patty, seconded by Rich to approve the regular meeting minutes of the November 19, 2024 meeting as presented. Patty asks about the UV lights comment. Jill clarified that she would be fine with whatever the board approved. All ayes, motion carried.

**Budget Review:**

Public Accounts: Motion by Kathleen, seconded by Patty, to pay bills listed on the public funds voucher list. All ayes, motion carried.

Special Accounts: Motion by Patty, seconded by Dianna to approve payment of the special account of bills from the Laona Bank Special Account. A question was raised about the festival of lights tree and tree stump seats. Discussion. All ayes, motion carried.

2024 Budget Review: Discussion. Jill notes some bills did not come through that were expected and some bills were cut directly from the maintenance budget.

**Correspondence:** A card from a three-year old patron who gave her whole “jar of give money” (approx. \$4) was highlighted.

**Committee Reports:**

Three Lakes Public Library Foundation: Have not met

Oneida County Library Board: Kathleen and Dianna met with board. The Oneida County Board approved the budget for the year. Contracts with the county are not ready yet. The next meeting is on the 20<sup>th</sup> of February. Cook the book program noted as a programming novelty. Legislative Day will be coming up as well, Tuesday, February 11th. Jill will be attending, and April has gone in the past. Please thank legislators for their support (Felzkowski & Swearingen). Meetings will be scheduled by Kris Adams Wendt for meet-and-greets with legislators. Kris was honored with a Hall of Fame Lifetime Achievement Award. Rhinelander Library’s Capital Funding Campaign was brought up if folks wanted to extend their support.

**Director’s Report:**

Discussion: Last usage count of the year has been finished. Numbers were disappointing due to frigid temperatures. A few added things: The Lions has donated \$500 to the library for Large Print books. If he passes a background check, we will have a maintenance person. Jill has reapplied for her temporary certification for next

year while she finishes her classes. Patty asks for clarification regarding contract negotiations with Sierra. Jill explains that V-cat as a group agreed that we want to keep using Sierra for the next 4-years and with the quote given. Photographers and ways of incorporating digital literacy into a program with family portrait access. The utility rate was renegotiated with the Historical Society. MOU had only been good for 2 years but is now good for 5 years. The library will bill them quarterly. The donations of \$1000 was designated as, "put it toward the slush fund." The 3-year-old donor's funds are undesignated. Jeff requested somehow recognize her as patron of the month. (Dan Arrives) The Stuffed Animal Sleepover went really well. The animals got into shenanigans while the kids were gone. The kids, animals, and folks on social media had a blast.

### **Building and Maintenance Report:**

Discussion: The buzzing light will be addressed with our handyman after the holidays. It will be switched with a non-dimming light at that time.

### **Unfinished Business:**

Progress on Strategic Planning Committee: Jill passed out a rough draft version. Welcome has changed to welcoming (inclusivity or affability were also discussed. Patty's prefers Hospitality instead of Welcoming; others agree this word is better than welcome. Some folks don't like Hospitality vs welcoming and there is discussion of which one is warmer. Mention of Inviting---Change the values to We are Committed to: Making everyone feel welcome. This will be the plan for the next three years.

Friends of Library revival: Karen is not able to make it today. Karen and Patty are running into trouble recruiting people. Karen and Patty cannot be board members of being on the Library Board. Board member search will continue. Jingle Mingle Book Sale brought in \$300 or so. Karen thinks they should have also had a book sale for Pumpkin Fest. Book Sales are scheduled for Memorial Day, Fourth of July, PumpkinFest, and Jingle Mingle. Some of the books for sale are available to browse and buy during library hours out in the hallway.

Library Board Self-Evaluation: Rich makes a motion to table it. Dan did not have information put together about this. Ann had initiated the 2023 library board self-evaluation. The board mentions whether to talk through it or table it to have time to think about it. Going to discuss this at the next meeting with the sheet filled out. Jill will send it to board members as a word document.

Update By-laws: Kathleen asks about membership about residence. Clarification says only 2 people on the library board cannot live in the municipality. Talked about changing the wording, but Jill believes that this is state statute wording. Patty makes a motion to accept the Board of Trustees bylaws as presented. Dan seconded. All ayes, motion carried.

### **New Business:**

Planning for Candidate Forum: Patty suggests going back to the high school. Members also discuss using the theater. Jeff liked the first candidate forum at the theater when they had no idea what the questions were. Last year attendance was low. The year at the high school it was well attended. A downside was the moderator had a difficult time. Overall folks like the idea of the school. Jeff, Roger Brisk, and Matt Olkowski positions are up for re-election. At the next board meeting we will know all the available candidates. Jeff says he will bring the list of town candidates to the next meeting and Dianna will bring the school candidates and check availability of school for the 24<sup>th</sup> or 26<sup>th</sup>. Jeff mentions an experience discussing Oneida County building a new EMS shelter on county A on year. People didn't realize there was a 7-minute response time and staffed with 2 paramedics and service was dramatically improving. The questions chosen for the event are important to help voters know what's going on. Rich mentions the board can bring some more questions about current topics. The airport is controversial

with some people. The airport has its own board, cannot spend money without town board approval. Airport does not spend that money and the same \$40,000 gets rolled over every year so it's not a big expense.

**Comments from public: Dan asking about Director evaluation that once he gets the feedback he will meet with Jill. Everyone agrees this is fine.**

**Future items:**

**Next Meeting: Regular meeting on January 21, 2024, 4:00 pm in the lower level of the library and/or via video/teleconference**

The meeting adjourned at 5:09 PM. Motion by Dan, Seconded by Patty. All ayes. Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted: Jill Roth, Director