



ALFRED BOX OF BOOKS LIBRARY

BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, December 11, 2019, 4pm

Present: Allison Snyder, President; Lana Meissner, Vice-president; Megan Parry, secretary; Pat Crandall, Martha Lash, Debbie Stephens. For latter part of meeting: Lesley Brill, treasurer.

Also present: Melanie Miller, Library Director; Brian Hildreth, STLS Director (for Old Business portion of the meeting only.)

Allison Snyder called the meeting to order at 4:02pm.

Minutes, November 2019: Martha Lash moved to approve, Allison Snyder seconded. Minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report:

Lesley Brill via email because he would be late to the meeting:

"I have reviewed the most recent report from Lori, our accountant, and find nothing alarming in it. Indeed, in most lines we are under our projections of expenditures and we look all but certain to end the year with a healthy surplus. The Board can decide what to do about it; putting it in the "Building Fund" would be one possible action, for example.

The format of this month's report is simpler and more comprehensible than previous reports, at least as I read them. There are still some confusing numbers caused by our having switched banks, but these should disappear in the January report."

Melanie, Lori, Les, and Allison met in November and discussed moving a large portion of the healthy balance into the building fund. Lori will continue to try to simplify her reports.

Additional remarks and a question:

Grants have helped build up funds, along with the practice of overestimating some recurring expenses. Can we invest tax money in something that would generate interest?

Melanie added: The snow shoveling guy is back in action. The library has a new printer, which works for patrons but is not yet hooked up to the staff network. Tony Hilliard will provide an estimate to replace gas heaters. (Because of the probable expense, Melanie didn't ask about electric.) Main Plumbing of Hornell will come next week. Other possibilities: Tim Shea too busy, phone tag with Lindsay, Burdick/Lenny "kind of disappeared." Martha will call Brian Snyder. Lana Meissner moved to approve the Treasurer's Report, Pat Crandall seconded. The report was approved.

Director's Report:

The Honor Society of AU would like to do a stress management program at the Library. Students involved in the program will come up with ideas for focus - therapy dog? Stressed-out moms? The BoB did not get a Tri-County Arts Council Grant; the process has become very competitive.

Old Business:

Brian Hildreth presented his questionnaire/framework for the Village community meeting in which the board solicits suggestions from residents to address the Library's future. Some trustees continue to be uncomfortable with some of the questions Brian proposes, and there was discussion about that. Lana Meissner suggested that we could reassure participants that we know not everyone will appreciate the question framework.

Brian would like a minimum of 30 townspeople in attendance. The group would be broken into smaller units, with one unit at a table, each table occupied by a board member to guide the discussion and take notes. Brian will speak to the group at large, as will Melanie and Allison. Letters will go out to a selected group of community members once a date for the meeting and the wording of the letter have been approved. Allison suggested holding off on the community meeting until April, perhaps after the 15th (depending also on Mark Zupan's schedule, since we would like him to attend.) Perhaps the Library should be open for visiting before and after the meeting.

Melanie will share the approximately forty surveys she has collected with the board.

Some ideas for publicity: a "community board" similar to Andover's, the Wellsville regional blog.

Budget: The budget of \$100,760. for 2020 will not override the tax cap. Lana moved to approve the budget, Martha seconded. The budget was approved.

Allison moved to add \$1979. to the tax cap for 2021. Les seconded, the motion passed.

Executive Session: Melanie was excused and the board went into executive session.

Allison adjourned the meeting at 5:43pm.

The next meeting will be Monday February 10th at 4:00pm in the Parish House.

Respectfully submitted,

Megan Parry, secretary