

Tupper Lake Public Library Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

March 8, 2022

Call to Order by Harriet Connelly at 9:35 a.m.

Attendance: Harriet Connelly, Rick Wilburn, Suzanne Orlando, Sarah Bencze, Bob Guiney. Library Director, Courtney Carey

Agenda adopted as presented.

Minutes of meeting of February 8, 2022 – motion by Rick second by Sarah to approve as presented. All in favor. (5-0)

Guest Speaker: Lisa Bedard-Dupree, of the North Country Chamber of Commerce, joined the meeting by zoom to inform the board of the various options for health insurance coverage available to Courtney through Healthy NY for Small Businesses. Many scenarios were discussed at length. The board favored a Gold Standard Plan which is offered by Excellus Blue Cross-Blue Shield. After further discussion, motion by Suzanne, second by Rick to approve this Plan effective April 1, 2022. All in favor. (5-0)

Director's Report: Courtney presented her report for February which listed patron visits, phone call numbers, e-mail requests, and computer session numbers. Programs in the library for February included a blood drive on 2/17, and meetings for the following: Snowmobile Club, Ladies Club, AARP, GED Program. and TLCL.

- Courtney reported that Phase I(B) of the construction grant is continuing at a good pace.
- A meeting was held on 2/15 between the library and the principals involved in the construction project. It was noted that during Phase II, the library will have to close for a period of time for asbestos removal to proceed. An effort will be made to schedule it so that there is a minimal impact on library operations.
- We are awaiting for an updated estimate of costs from Schoolhouse construction.
- Currently working on programming for the spring and summer. Summer will see a weekly Garden Story time and Bandshell story time.
- The library will also have a craft program on a regular basis.
- Library will be distributing sunflower seeds as a symbol of hope, unity and peace.
- Staff is brainstorming on ideas to encourage community engagement with the sunflowers with a potential tie in to the Ukraine issue.

Financial Officers Report:

- The board reviewed the financial report for the month of February. After discussion, motion by Bob, second by Suzanne, to approve this report. All in favor. (5-0)
- The board was also presented with the bills and payroll report for its information.

New Business:

- The board welcomed new member Sarah Bencze to its ranks and administered the Oath of Office and Conflict of Interest Policy.
- Sarah will have to run for her term this spring and will have to present a petition with the proper number of signatures of eligible school district voters. Also, Harriett will have to run for the

remaining two years of Mike Farkas' unexpired term and also present a petition with the proper number of signatures of school district residents.

- The Board voted unanimously to approve the Tax Cap Override Resolution as the budget to be presented for the board's vote exceeds the tax cap imposed by state law. All in favor. (5-0) This resolution is appended to the pages of these minutes.
- Motion by Rick, second by Suzanne, to approve the library budget for fiscal year 2022-2023, with an increase of 6%, to be presented for approval by the taxpayers in May. All in favor. (5-0)
- Courtney presented the Annual Report of the Library for submission after much consultation with Therese Ellis and Mike Spofford of CEFLS. After discussion, motion by Bob, second by Rick to approve the Annual Report subject to approval of Therese and Mike. All in favor. (5-0)
- Items held over for the next meeting include approval of the employees handbook and a discussion of emergency closures.
- The library will continue to follow CDC guidance and Franklin county guidelines in reference to the questions regarding mask wearing requirement in the library.
- Rick and Courtney attended a meeting of the Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) Committee to represent the library at the table.

Meeting adjourned at 11:50 A.M.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 12, 2022

Minutes submitted by Bob Guiney