

MINUTES OF
THE PLAINEDGE PUBLIC LIBRARY
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

February 11, 2019

Present

Ellen Ryder, President
Laura Oden-Bell, Vice President
Ann Doxsey
Doreen Oliver
Michael Giris

Michele Lipson, Director
Michael Dietz, Systems Integrator
Diana Weir, Senior Library Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by the President.

The President led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Guests

No guests were present.

Community Comments

There were no community comments.

Unfinished Business

Presentation and Discussion of the 2020-2021 Operating Budget.

Director distributed the budget to the Board members, along with a draft of the message to send to the community. She explained that adding money from the fund balance will help us with capital projects, but is not sustainable as a way to raise the operating expenses. She spoke about Cuomo's proposed deep budget cuts, which sets libraries back to aid, from 1999. And, a statement came from the White House, wanting to cut funding to Museum and Library Services.

Ellen Ryder is concerned about the NYS funding cuts, specifically those targeting construction grants.

Mike Giris asked how Medicare Part B goes down. Michele explained that it is decreased when a retiree (or their spouse) passes away. We lost two people this year. He had questions about the

book budget going down. Michele explained that costly Reference books aren't being purchased as much anymore, but we are putting money into research databases. We are also following our data, which shows the popularity of digital media. We don't want to purchase items that won't circulate. We've increased our budget for books for our growing Young Adult collection. We are also doing more and creative ways of sharing materials between Nassau County libraries. Mike also asked about the possibility of having newspapers available on public computers, rather than in paper. Michele explained that our subscription doesn't work that way. And, patrons wouldn't like it. We have regular patrons who enjoy sitting down and reading an actual paper. The library needs to provide both paper and digital services.

Ann Doxsey questioned why we chose to transfer money from our fund balance. The money was transferred to offset the cost of building projects that need to be done in the near future. While using the fund balance is a good idea in the short term, Michele reiterated that the fund balance should not be used to increase the budget. We won't want to do this year after year, so this is not a sustainable solution. It should only be used for specific projects. Laura Oden-Bell agreed.

Board members discussed the merits of increasing the budget, and offsetting some of the building projects that we have to get done this year, by transferring money from our fund balance into the Capital Fund. A 1.30% and a 1.42% budget were presented. The Board was conflicted. Doreen Oliver suggested presenting a larger budget increase. Some of the Board members agreed. They chose to compromise at 1.6%. All Board members concurred.

The Board chose to stay below the tax cap, which is 1.81% this year, and to increase the budget by 1.6% in 2020-2021.

The Director will adjust the draft of the budget, and will present it at the next regular Board meeting.

Motion to adjourn was made by Doreen Oliver, and seconded by Michael Giris, at 7:33 PM.

An additional Special Board meeting has been scheduled for March 4th, 2020.

The date of the next Board of Trustees meeting is February 19, 2020.

Secretary's Signature

Date of Approval

Secretary's Initials