

CFL Regular Board Meeting
April 17, 2019 - 7:00 p.m.
Minutes

1. Call meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
 - a. Present- Kathleen Hennessy, Mark Martin, Kim Hay, Sandro Mironti, Mike Anderson, Diane Ames, John Whittleton (by phone), John Hoeschele, Myron Walker, Georgette Ogle, President Vivian Bosch, Maria Manning
 - b. Excused – Randi Storch, Bryan Riccardi
 - c. Absent – Russ Ruthig
 - d. Staff – Tammy Sickmon, Lorrene Moore

2. New Trustee - Introduction of John Hoeschele – John will be chair of the long range planning committee, and a member of the marketing/relations committee (he'll be working on ways to give money to library) and the grants committee.

3. Approve March regular minutes and bills, payroll.
 - a. March Minutes – Trustee Walter moves to approve March 2019 minutes, Trustee Ames seconds. Motion carried.
 - b. Reports – Trustee Hennessy moves to approve reports, Trustee Mironti seconds. Motion carried.

4. Interim Director's report (Tammy Sickmon)
 - a. Updates – received all of Stone Soup books – Friends of the Library is paying for half, other half will be from the Governali donation
 - b. Library will be participating in the Fidelis program (4/27/19). Going to bring the hotspots and have books available for families and the ability to sign up for library cards.
 - c. Submitted a letter of intent to Fidelis Care for donations for family flick program and kick off and summer reading finale party
 - d. SUNY students came for Ready Set Read and sent Thank you card to library

5. Committee reports
 - a. President's Report Update
 - Received a call from Representative Lifton's office stating there are concerns about mixing funding with NYS Construction grant funding. Vivian offered to write a new letter and ask for things that were not part of the NYS Construction grant and was told to keep that letter as a plan B if that becomes necessary.
 - b. Grants Update
 - NYS Construction Grant: DASNY wanted an assurance in writing that we understand that when we do the final budget, the paperwork for the window films need to be matching funds and not grant funds. Vivian provided the requested statement.
 - c. Personnel Update
 - Total compensation letters have not been given but will be distributed to staff on 4/19/19 with that paycheck
 - d. Technology Update
 - Camera/surveillance issue was fixed but it could just break at any moment so eventually that will need to be replaced.

6. Old Business

a. Phone System (Trustee Walter)

- Had conversation with Dan Armstrong and was told there would be an answer within days but as of the date of meeting he still hasn't heard
- Trustee Walter called a third vendor and they're working on a quote now
- Should have a price at the next Board Meeting

7. New Business

a. Vote on Recommendation (EGO Cordless Walk-Behind Lawnmower \$499):

- President Bosch's husband made the recommendation
- Trustee Whittleton moves to approve spending \$499 from the maintenance fund to purchase the new lawn mower. Trustee Hennessey second. Motion carried.

b. Trustee Ogle, Interim Director Sickmon and President Bosch met with an architect and representative from Halco (Jon Carnes) about air conditioning in youth services

- They suggested that the library go with ducted version instead of ductless.
- Halco was asked to give ballpark estimate so the Board could compare the options
 1. Original estimate was \$31,575 (ductless)
 2. Today's estimate \$30,135 (ductless)
 3. Same ductless system but with heat pumps on roof – additional \$5275
 4. Ducted system - \$34245 plus JBK (\$4900) plus roof work which is unknown
- Discussions
 1. Trustee Walter is in favor of roof and ducting system because makes a cleaner install
 2. Concern from President Bosch because the finance committee already met to allocate money from original quote

8. Tax Cap Presentation/Discussion (Sara Glogowski)

a. Sara Glogowski from FLLS presented to the Board about the 2% tax cap. Main takeaways from discussion:

- The reason for discussion is that this is the third year with mandated increases in minimum wage and the Library's endowment doesn't go to covering those costs
- Tax cap came in effect in 2011. As of 2017, the library tax cap does NOT affect the taxpayer's rebate check. This change removed the largest hurdle in asking to go over tax cap
- Timing:
 1. FLLS is helping libraries prep for 2020 increases now.
 2. Figure out if going over and start planning
 3. Board vote by December w/ 60% of vote. Must be in Board minutes.
- Cortland's biggest issue: the County (poverty, not believing in funding libraries)
- If Board decides to go above the cap and vote fails, it will just stay at the same level the previous year (wouldn't even get the 2%). Basically, we're never going to lose the money, just not get the extra money that was asked for.
- Board would need to make a decision next month if going over tax cap

b. Sarah also answered questions about the Sexual Harassment training requirement.

9. Conflict of Interest Reviews (Diane Ames, Lorri Moore)

- Deferred to next meeting

10. Next Board Meeting: May 15, 2019: 7:00 pm

Please notify if you are unable to attend a meeting. Please send any new agenda items by 5/8/2019.

11. Adjourn at 8:46pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by,
Maria Manning, Secretary

4/17/19 Board Mtg – Sara Glogowski Tax Cap Notes

Tax cap came in effect in 2011. As of 2017, the library tax cap does NOT affect the rebate check. This change removed the largest hurdle in asking to go over tax cap.

Four other counties in FLLS all get additional \$ from the County.

Some libraries ask for a couple thousand over tax cap every year; some do larger amounts every couple years.

Apalachin Tioga County goes for sizable increases every year, but this year (just last week) there was an uproar.

You need to know your community. If anti-tax, be extra careful with wording to the community.

Timing:

- FLLS is helping libraries prep for 2020 increases now.
- Figure out if going over and start planning
- Board vote by December w/ 60% of vote. Must be in Board minutes.

Other libraries' votes are in conjunction with school vote. Governor Cuomo doesn't like special votes so 95% of libraries do with school budget.

FLLS has a timeline/calendar. Will tell us "here's what we'll do; here's what we expect of you."

- Nov: provide three reasons why you need to go over
- Dec: vote
- Jan:
 - have petition at circ desk. Need at least 25 signatures. (Should do this regardless of under/over tax cap)
 - Give petition to school
- February: ask to present 2 minutes to School Board on why going over
- March through May: outreach to community; infographic is great for marketing; what increase will be used for; total transparency.

Cortland's biggest issue: the County (poverty, not believing in funding libraries)

If vote fails then we just stay at the level of the previous year.

Voter burnout – yes, if go over tax cap every year.

Arguments that have been heard against going over tax cap:

- We have a school library; don't need a public library (Response: yes, but most people can't just walk into school library)
- You should get your additional money from grants (Response: here is a list of the grants we have applied for/ gotten)

25 out of 33 libraries in FLLS have referendums

Gauge your community.

Do it properly: clear explanation why; transparency

Give new director a year before asking to go over. There is a learning curve.

We would need to make a decision on the tax cap next month. Our Board is not there yet.