

Edmeston Free Library Board of Trustees Meeting
Minutes February 12, 2024

Present: Joel Staples, Martha Winsor, Kelly Bennis, Michelle Babbie and Toni Zaleski

Meeting called to order at 6:35 p.m. Minutes from the previous meeting, as well as the annual meeting approved as amended. Martha mentioned; Kelly approved. None opposed.

Annual report - Martha and Toni finished their section; Joel is completing his. Joel and Barb will meet to organize the expense and fund categories used by the bookkeeper to the annual report. Joel will send a copy to everyone to see. Toni would like a final copy in print. Martha suggested a final copy after it's been approved by the State. There will be a discrepancy in the financials because we did not claim the \$220,000 from the State because we did not receive it in time. Joel and Barb will add a note to the report.

Tax roll update - The deadline to get information to the school to put a tax increase in front of the voters is March. Correct wording is important. Martha suggested making a 1 page document for the public to explain the library's request. Suggested items to include: COVID impact on labor, fuel pricing, as well as inflation. Martha and Kelly will work on the document. Emphasis on the need to cover operating expenses for the existing library program; not to fund the renovation. Joel will get the petition all set and bring it to the library so that it can get the required number of signatures.

Arnold and Carbonell properties - On the Arnold property there was trouble with the title. We may run against the three year deadline at which point the property would go up for taxes. Carbonell property - Heard nothing from Susan.

Bookmarks are all set.

Treasurer's report - Paul is asking for access to the online banking information so that he can balance the books in a timely fashion. We still would need the paper statement. Martha made a motion to approve adding Paul to the online banking access. Michelle seconded. None opposed.

PDQ going out of business. Joel asked the board if the library would be interested in having a fax machine available for the public. After discussion, Martha agreed to look into the cost of an inexpensive fax machine.

Financial report - unable to vote. Updated financial statements did not come from the accountant to Barb in time.

Management report - CROP students still coming on Tuesdays; program going well. The snowman kits were popular. The new computers still have issues with WorkFlows. Toni still working with Four County to resolve. Jo Salo would like to give input on how the new children's room at the Corts House location is decorated.

Corts House Update - The signed contract amount is \$16,000 below what we were approved for. Once all the info is in from the Satte we will see if appliances for the kitchen would be approved. Still need SHPO approval for doors and HVAC on the outside. Had to complete the

NYSEG grant program info for Simple Integrity. Missy getting an estimate from Norton's Gas on the generator. Missy looking into WiFi which may be able to get a grant.

Fundraising letter - We will send to a targeted list; just those who gave in the past. Martha moved; Michelle seconded motion to send the letter. None opposed.

Discussed dinner responsibilities for upcoming Rotary dinner.

Museum Update (Karen Delker) - 50 people came to the tree lighting. Suggest ordering more trees for the tree decorating. Raised \$3,000 as part of SpookFest. Karen asked to purchase picture frames from Walmart. The museum is looking for information on the Otsego School, as well as NYCM, and the library itself to include in the museum.

Tax roll resolution wording: Joel motioned that the following be put in front of the voters as part of the upcoming school budget vote. "Be it resolved that we are voting to exceed the 2.0 percent tax cap to a total of \$30,000 which is an increase from the current amount of \$20,000." Martha motioned, Kelly seconded. None opposed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.