

Onondaga Free Library
Board of Trustees Minutes
March 26, 2025

Board Attendees: Chris McCarthy , Beth Crump, Margaret Farrell, Charlotte Garofalo, Rob Price, Liz LaRochelle, Yvonne Slate, Diane Leshinski, Pat Forken

Absent:

Staff: Susan Morgan

Other: OCPL: Amanda Perrine, Jill Hurst-Wahl

I. Meeting was called to order at 6:36 p.m.

II. Approval of minutes from the February 26, 2025 meeting.

Pat made a motion to accept the minutes; Liz seconded. Everyone in favor. Motion carried.

III. Treasurer's Report

Margaret presented the check registry and stated that OFL is on track for revenues and expenses. There were a few questions regarding a couple of checks.

Rob made a motion to accept the check register and treasurer's report for February 26, 2025; Charlotte seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

IV. Director's Report

Susan noted that all is going well with the transition period with outgoing and new staff. She thanked the staff for being flexible and covering for one another when needed.

The Trustees Administrative Council will be held on April 29 at 5:30 pm at the Marcellus Free Library.

The NYS library may be impacted by the IMLS funding cuts. Not sure yet how it will affect local level library funding.

V. Friends Report

- The Shamrock Sale brought in \$400
- The June book sale will take place in the community room on 6/5-6/7/25.
- The Friends are funding yoga, Ukrainian egg making, and mini drone classes

VI. Committee Reports

Building:

- Scott and Susan submitted the Community Foundation grant for flat roof replacements in February. Awardees will be notified in May.
- Driveway sealing and striping will be done in May or June.
- One quote for carpet replacement in the community room has been received. Susan said she is getting another one. Rob suggested that we get three; it is good practice to have three quotes.

- The section of the roof that is the worst is scheduled to be replaced soon, just waiting on supplies.

Personnel:

- Abigail Connelly, the new Youth Services Librarian, is on her third day of employment and Susan said she is off to a very good start.
- Susan noted that the staff are all doing very well and with the new hires the library has a wide variety of skills sets.

VII. Old Business

2025 Onondaga Tax Levy Decision

- Signatures due on August 4, 2025
- The number of signatures needed is 10% of the number of people who voted in the last governor's race. Janet Hillery, Town Clerk from the Town of Onondaga will get back to Susan with the information on this part of the process.
- Susan noted the petition will likely use the same template from the last time we submitted for an increase.
- The plan after much discussion is to ask for \$100,000. Going from \$700,00 to \$800,000 which is a 14.29% increase. Nine years ago, in 2016 the ask was \$475,000 to \$700,000 which was a 47.37% increase.
- Rob noted that we need to put together the reasoning and numbers for why the increase is needed: operating expense increases to keep the doors open: increased minimum wage, increased health insurance costs up by at least 6% and general insurance up 10-17%
- There was also a brief discussion about whether we should ask for an increase every 5 years rather than waiting so long that the percentage increase is much higher. There was no conclusion or consensus.
- Susan and Margaret are going to run the financial analysis.

Charlotte made a motion to approve the ask for a \$100,000 increase; Beth seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

Sick Leave Shared Bank – No Update

III. New Business

Concrete Repairs

Repairs are needed to several sections in front of and behind the library as the concrete is crumbling and heaving due to heavy snow removal this winter. Susan got a quote for \$7,800 and will be getting two more quotes.

IX. Motion to Move into Executive Session

At 7:31 pm Chris made a motion, seconded by Rob, to enter executive session to discuss personnel compensation. All in favor. Motion carried.

Susan will reach out to library attorney to clarify the language in the handbook regarding compensation for those not taking the health insurance plan.

Rob made a motion to exit Executive Session; Liz seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

Adjournment

With no further business, Beth made a motion to adjourn, Liz seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Next Meeting: May 28, 2025