

Board of Trustees of the Taft Public Library Minutes
Taft Public Library, Mendon, MA
Wednesday, October 14, 2015
7:00 PM

Trustees present: Bob Carlson, Amy Fahey, Sharron Luttrell,
Jane Blackwood, Leigh Martin (School Committee), Ellen Agro
Also present: Library Director Andrew Jenrich

I Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM by Amy Fahey

II Approval of Minutes

September 9, 2015 Minutes

MOTION: On a motion of Bob Carlson to approve the September 9, 2015 minutes, seconded by Ellen Agro.

VOTED: Unanimous with Ellen abstaining

September 30, 2015 MINUTES

On a motion of Bob Carlson to approve the September 30, 2015 minutes, seconded by Ellen Agro.

VOTED: unanimous

III. Directors Report

Andrew is still receiving quotes for the roof repair.

The library phone replacement took longer than expected because the company planned to install corded phones, which is not reasonable for library use. The problem could have been headed off if the library staff were consulted about their needs before going ahead with the installation.

We are paying the electric bills for 29 North. Amy pointed out that the contractor should be paying that bill during construction. They should have had the account transferred to their name when the contract was signed. Andrew will speak with Mary.

We received \$500 from the SPIRITS presentation and investigation. The organization would like to come back to do more investigations.

First-grade students have been visiting the library and receiving library cards.

An invasive plant has appeared in the garden and will have to be removed.

Andrew will put together a presentation for Town Meeting showing the reduced funding to the library over the past eight years.

IV Budget Review

Andrew presented the budget, noting that 29.7 percent has been spent, a little more than he would like. To date we have spent 45 percent of the supplies account, 37.4 of the books account and 81.3 percent of the programming account. The trustees feel we should ask for a higher amount to fund programming next year. The remaining balance is \$117,365, which is higher than last year at this time. That's due to the increased budget that we lobbied for.

C/W Mars has assessed us an additional \$300 fee because the state didn't come through with additional funding this year.

Three staff people receive longevity bonuses, money that was not included in the budget. As a result, we are exceeding the salary line item each week. Andrew asked the trustees to think about whether we should take that \$700 in longevity bonuses out of state aid. We need to budget for the longevity bonuses in the future.

Jane Lowell attended part of the meeting to discuss the roof replacement and a request for CPC funds. It was decided that Amy will talk with Kim about how best to proceed since the library is vacating the building and will no longer be responsible for building maintenance.

V. Fundraising Update

The Friends have sold about 25 percent of Cow Chip Bingo deeds. They have close to \$80,000 in the capital campaign fund.

VI. Building Committee update

Workers discovered that the back wall of the church was not attached to anything. The fix will cost \$107,000. There is enough in the contingency fund to cover that. The siding will go up before the winter. It's primed and will be painted next spring.

The state has not yet released the \$50,000 it granted the library. State legislators Fatman and Fernandes are working to get the money released.

Bill McHenry is working hard to get \$21,000 in additional Green Communities funding.

The Building Committee will try to sell the vintage lights from the church on eBay. BVT will be doing some woodwork on the counters. Paul Fitzgerald is trying to get some flooring donated.

VII. Library Public Relations

With the Town Meeting coming up, we discussed submitting letters to the editor of the local newspapers and appearing on WMRC to gain support at Town Meeting. Leigh suggests having a display of the new library plans at the Cow Chip Bingo. We will also ask the Friends to help spread the word on Facebook.

IX Future Agenda Items

The next meeting will be held on November 10 at 7:00 PM at the Taft Public Library.

X Adjournment

MOTION: On a motion of Sharron to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Bob.

VOTED: Unanimous.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:09 PM.

