

## MONTHLY LIBRARY TRUSTEE MEETING MINUTES

May 6, 2020

IN ATTENDANCE: Jani Fillion (chair); Mary Swinyer (treasurer); Kim De Lutis (secretary); Judith Dean; Dawn Hatch; Bryan Koplow; Sara MacIver; Meagan Carr (director)

EXCUSED: Judy JonesGirouard (vice-chair)

CALL TO ORDER: Fillion (chair) at 6:02pm

Director Carr said the Town has asked for budget reductions. Carr received information on what other Town offices are doing: PD and Public Works are reducing by up to 50k while the rest are cutting between 2-5k. Carr cannot purchase right now, so we are looking to be under budget regardless. She mentioned being in need of disinfectant spray, masks, and wipes. She mentioned that matching the Community House (\$5k) may be appropriate. Koplow asked if the Town mentioned what they expect the shortfall to be. Carr said no, although they do have an undisclosed target. Fillion asked when they want our budget decision. Carr said it's unclear since they cannot necessarily *require* it. Hastings asked why they are trying to reduce the budget. Carr said it is to reduce the tax rate for December; any reductions now will not affect the taxpayers' July bill. Hastings is asking whether there is a real need to reduce our budget at this time; Carr said she thinks we could hold on making our decision. Swinyer surmised it may be to reduce the tax rate to alleviate expenses in the future for those unemployed. Fillion asked if we have any information on when libraries in the state can reopen, and also what budget savings have we incurred thus far. Carr said savings include supplies, books, fuel, and supplies that we cannot purchase and won't need to backfill. Koplow asked how long we will be able to maintain staff if we cannot open. Carr said in another month, if we are not dealing with the public, the part-time positions may not be able to keep busy; although curbside would help. Fillion interjected that she has heard nothing but super-positive comments about how blessed we are to have this library staff. Christine's painting sessions, Angie's Story Times... the last thing she would want to discuss is any terminations. We need to hang on and keep these super valuable people. Swinyer asked if they could be furloughed would it be in their best interest, but Carr said they wouldn't know until they actually apply. Fillion was adamant that if we keep providing for our patrons we will come out ahead. Hastings thinks the citizens won't allow the state to be shut down for another month, and would rather see us continue as we are providing a service. He asked if we can find \$2k that we would not spend in the future; Carr said it is possible. He thinks it's still too early to say that we can cut the budget because there have been no permanent reductions. Koplow asked what the reaction would be if we didn't reduce the budget. Carr said everyone else is giving in, so she feels we should support it. Fillion

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asked if the Community House comes close to the funding we receive. Carr said they don't, so she was surprised they would be able to give up such a large amount. Swinyer said that number came from reduced staff hours, and suggested we give back 3k. Carr mentioned a grant through the CARES program that she could apply for.

Hastings made a motion and there was discussion. Koplou didn't agree with being able to forgive the Town \$2k and said it was a line item. Others felt it was actual funds the library would have received. Discussion ensued.

MSV – Motion to forgive the Town \$2k; to find another \$2k from book expenses; to apply for the grant; to review further in July Hastings/Dean (7-1)– Motion approved at 6:59PM

ACTION: Carr to apply for the grant.

Fillion said this shows the Town that we are acting in good faith while still acknowledging that we are still operating fulltime and supporting the parents and teachers.

The Board will reconvene in early July.

MSV – Motion to adjourn Fillion/De Lutis (8-0)– Motion approved at 7:01

Respectfully submitted,  
Kim De Lutis, secretary 5.6.2020