

Meeting Acushnet Public Library Board of Trustees

February 16, 2021 (Zoom) at 12 p.m.

In attendance: Jennifer Alves, Chair

Dina Brasseur, Library Director

Diane Ferreira

Nancy Francis

Danielle Guillemette

Jeri Howland, Secretary

Stephen Reale

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**Secretary's Report**

A motion was made by Nancy to accept the secretary's report from January 12, 2021 and was seconded by Diane. All voted (by roll call) in favor.

**Budget Report**

The salary portion of the budget is right on target. Under operating, the energy line is 63% spent. Spending for February was higher than last year, probably because there have been a few more snowstorms and the heated walkway has been used. The SAILS bill was less than estimated this year because of a grant. SAILS decided to pass the savings along to libraries resulting in a lesser fee. The materials line is 104% spent. This is higher than usual due to Dina using some of the extra savings from the SAILS line to purchase materials. Dina will save the remaining funds in the SAILS line in case it is needed for something later. A motion was made by Stephen to accept the budget and was seconded by Nancy. All voted (by roll call) in favor.

**Reopening Plan**

All of the staff is now working in the building starting today. COVID numbers have been decreasing. If this trend continues and Acushnet drops into the yellow zone, we may be able to begin allowing patrons in for browsing by appointment. This has been working well for computer use. This could possibly begin in late March or early April.

**Fines or No Fines**

Danielle suggested that fines not be collected until patrons can come into the building to browse. All members of the Board agreed that would be a good time to resume collecting fines. A motion was made by Stephen to begin collecting fines when the library is open for browsing by appointment. It was seconded by Diane. All voted (by roll call) in favor.

**New Business**

All library computers run on the SAILS network. SAILS sees increased bandwidth as a need. The American Library Association recommends twice the bandwidth we currently have. SAILS says it would

cost about \$650.00 for the increase. This information was received too late to be included in the FY2022 budget. The Town Administrator said to revise the budget from \$278,118.00 to \$278,760.00. This change now needs to be approved by the Board of Trustees. Nothing was deducted from the draft when \$642.00 was added. A motion was made by Nancy to approve the increase of \$642.00 to the current budget. It was seconded by Stephen. All voted (by roll call) in favor.

#### **Director's Report**

The town has hired a consultant to do a wage and classification study for union employees.

A Ford Middle School teacher made a request that all her seventh grade students read the same book at the same time through Hoopla. In order to make this happen, about 60 library cards had to be renewed or updated. A big project but hopefully the start of ongoing collaboration with the schools.

The library received state certification for the next fiscal year.

The Beanstack challenge is going strong with lots of patron participation.

The next Zoom meeting of the Board of Trustees will be Tuesday, March 16, 2021 at noon.

Nancy moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:44 p.m. and Stephen seconded. All voted (by roll call) in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeri Howland

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