

Meeting Acushnet Public Library Board of Trustees

Tuesday, November 15, 2022 at 4 p.m.

In attendance: Jennifer Alves, Chair

Diane Ferreira

Nancy Francis

Danielle Guillemette

Joan Howland, Secretary

Stephen Reale

Dina St. Pierre, Library Director

Secretary's Report

A motion was made by Stephen to accept the secretary's reports from the regular session and the executive session on October 18, 2022. The motion was seconded by Nancy. All voted in favor.

Budget Report

The budget is on track for this fiscal year. Salary and other lines are as expected. An Eversource bill was just received. Diane made a motion to accept the budget report and Stephen seconded. All voted in favor.

New Business

Dina, Nancy and Stephen met to review the FY24 budget. All Departments were asked to submit three budgets. Dina emphasized that the library must meet fiscal requirements to get state aid and certification. The library is submitting two budgets that do meet the municipal appropriation requirement. Both versions of the budget have increases that are contractual and reflect the non-union personnel as not getting raises. The library is not submitting the third budget because it would be a 5% decrease and the library would not meet the municipal appropriation requirement. The library could not function without state aid which would be withheld if the library had a 5% decrease in the budget. Nancy moved to approve both budgets. Diane seconded and all voted in favor.

The FY24 Action Plan is similar to the FY23 Action Plan. For FY24, the library is hoping to reach out to the middle school, the parochial school and the preschools in Acushnet. The strategic plan expires in June 2023. The state allows for a two year extension which would mean the strategic plan would need to be submitted by September 2024. Stephen moved to accept the FY24 Action Plan and Danielle seconded. All voted in favor.

Dina would like the library to go fine free due to the state aid increase, many if not all neighboring libraries going fine free and a sign of goodwill. Books, audio books, cds, magazines and videos would be fine-free. There would still be fines on museum passes, equipment, the computers used in the library and hotspots should they become available again. Patrons will still receive late notices and still be

responsible for lost items. Stephen moved to make the library fine-free. Danielle seconded and all voted in favor.

According to the town union contract, town employees get a half-day holiday on Christmas Eve and New Years Eve. The library has never been open on these two days. Dina has reached out to the town administrator about how this relates to the library staff. She is still waiting for an answer. There is always a problem with days that the library is open and the town hall is not. Nancy moved to close the library on December 24th and December 31st. Danielle seconded and Stephen seconded. All voted in favor.

John Braun is retiring and the Acushnet Road Race is being disbanded. Some money left in their account is being donated to the library. It will go into the library gift account with the stipulation that a plaque be installed saying that \$3000 came from the Acushnet Road Race. The library will announce at the summer concerts that some funding came from the road race. Diane moved to accept the donation from the Acushnet Road Race and hang a plaque acknowledging the gift. Danielle seconded; Steve abstained as he is on the Acushnet Road Race Committee and everyone else voted in favor.

Director's Report

The Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners has met, and the Acushnet Public Library will be receiving a State Aid Award larger than any received in the past.

The Friends of the Library has agreed to provide \$8,500 in funding in FY23. They will, also, pay for a plate glass table cover for the large wooden table in the main room. The Friends will be selling wreaths and greens on December 3, 2022. Also, they will be selling books and puzzles. There will be a free wreath decorating workshop on December 10, 2022.

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees will be on Thursday, December 8, 2022 at 4:30 p.m. Nancy moved to adjourn and Stephen seconded. All voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Howland