



**Minutes of the Meeting of the Ellsworth Public Library Board of Trustees
July 17, 2024**

Attending: Craig MacDonald (chair), Rain Perez, Judi Lyles, Vivek Philip, Sarah Lesko (director)

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm.

Public Comment: None

Consent Agenda:

**Meeting Minutes June 12, 2024
Financial Reports and Planning
Building and Grounds Report
Director's Report
Friends of the Library Report**

- The consent agenda was accepted as reviewed.
- Sarah Lesko noted a recent patron incident in which the patron intentionally pulled a bathroom partition from the wall. Police were notified; no charges were filed, but the patron will no longer have access to the library.

Old Business

- Sarah Lesko reported that auditors were at the city to reconcile accounts and are close to completing the work. Financial reports are expected soon.
- The requested 2.8% increase in the library budget was approved by the City.

Unfinished Business

The self-scanner will be operational soon. It will be in the same area as the copier.

New Business

Trustee vacancy:

- Craig MacDonald provided an overview of the steps necessary to expand the board from 5 to 7. The expansion will require a change in the City Charter, which may take a year or longer. The process includes: 1. voting by the board to expand the number of trustees (which will take place at the August board meeting); 2. presenting the proposal to City Council; 3. developing and preparing the amended language as a ballot question for a City-wide vote.
- The board will review the current charter language to determine other needed changes for the library and will develop a timeline for the expansion request..

Town funding:

- Sarah Lesko reported that Franklin and Trenton will reimburse residents for library cards.

- The board discussed the need to: 1. check population numbers to ensure library per capita requests are accurate; and 2. reconsider the per capita amount requested. Decisions need to be made soon since town letters will be sent in the fall.

Library Renovation:

- Survey results to date: Ease of borrowing materials, quiet areas, and emphasized historical charm/updated furniture are most important to respondents. Noise level has a negative impact.
- The library will host a public meeting to discuss potential renovations on August 13 at 6:30.
- Sarah Lesko circulated sketches of proposed renovations. The generous contribution of Carla Haskell, architect, is greatly appreciated. Sarah will check with Carla about dates that she is available to meet with board.

Executive session per MRSA Title 1, Chapter 13, Sec 405, Paragraph 6A to discuss employment matters.

Rain Perez moved to enter the executive session at 7:40.

Judi Lyles seconded 4-0; Judi Lyles moved to exit the session at 7:55

Rain Perez seconded. 4-0

Adjournment-Judi Lyles moved to adjourn at 8 pm; Rain Perez seconded. 4-0