

Pawlet Public Library

Special Meeting of Board of Trustees

MINUTES

February 22, 2024

Present: Trustees in attendance: Harley Cudney, Grace Larson, Kathryn Lawrence, Joni Lee

Community Members: Sue LaPorte, Lyndsi Barnes, Ruth Lampi, Jessica Van Ort, Lucy Norman, Barbara O'Connor, Steve Williams, Gordon Dossett (from the Manchester Journal), Carol Herbert, Lauren Herbert, Hannah Herbert

5:32 Call to order

Public Comment:

- Ruth: As a community member she would prefer mediation as opposed to long expensive litigation, which undermines community trust.
- Barbara: Echoes what Ruth said.
- Sue: All we hear is gossip from library staff, board, volunteers and library users, why can't the board clarify?
 - Joni asks: does Sue believe this is coming from board members, Sue says she thinks some is coming from at least 2 board members.
- Lucy echoes the desire for mediation.
- Jessica: Since coming to Pawlet we have gotten bad publicity making local and national news with the Slate Ridge incident, it would be great to resolve this quickly for the sake of the Town's reputation.
- Barbara: What can the board say?
 - Harley reiterates that on advice of council we are not answering questions at this point.
- Sue: Asks who is in charge of volunteers and staff, what is the control and by whom?
- Harley clarifies that the library submits provisional budget to the Select Board, this will be available in the town report.
- Lyndsi: The budget was not discussed or voted on in an open meeting.
 - Harley states that the budget will be discussed in the regular March meeting.
- Harley asks for a motion to move to find that premature general public knowledge of privileged attorney-client communications would clearly place the Library Trustees at a substantial disadvantage, including by revealing privileged information and waiving attorney-client privilege.
 - Joni motions to do so, Kathryn seconds, motion passes.
- Barbara asks who the attorney is.
 - Harley states that it is John Klesch.
- Sue wants to know who is paying for legal representation.

- Harley states that we can't disclose at this time but will be able to do so soon.

Kathryn makes a motion to move into executive session for attorney-client communications and to invite the Library's attorney. Joni seconds, motion passes. Meeting moves into executive session at 5:45.

7:49 Grace motions to leave executive session, Joni seconds, motion passes.

No decisions were made.

7:50 Kathryn motions to adjourn, Joni seconds, motion passes. Meeting adjourned.

Next regular meeting is March 12, 2024 at 5:30 pm, held at the library.

Dated February 26, 2024, Grace Larson, secretary.