

Transcript: Board of Trustees meeting March 16, 2022

Cate -We can call the meeting to order at 6:34. All right, welcome, everyone. Public comment? Ardeth, I guess we'll hear from you a little later on the Friends report. Okay. So we're gonna do the minutes separately because we had some absences, some board members absent different board members absent for our special meetings. So we'll go ahead and do those separately. Has everyone had time to look at everything. So we'll start with the minutes from February 16 2022. A motion to approve those minutes.

So, move, Jim.

Second, Jane.

Jim and Jane. Thank you. Any discussion? Okay. All in favor? Aye. Any opposed or abstaining? Carry okay, that will be six because Santana wasn't here. All right. Next was special meeting of February 25. Motion to approve these minutes.

So move, Jim. Fred.

Second Fred. Any discussion? All in favor? Aye. Any opposed? Or abstaining? So Jane and Santana. Yeah. Yeah. All right. So motion carried with how many are we? 5.

Special meeting, March 3. Motion to approve those minutes.

So move Jim. Second, Fred

Jim and Fred. Any discussion? All in favor? Aye. abstaining, Two abstaining? Actually 3. Yeah. Jane, Santana and Sue abstaining. Okay, Motion carried. Thank you. And thank you again, Arlene for taking minutes.

Arlene: You are very welcome.

Cate: All right. Treasurer's Report.

Jim: Let me start off before we do our normal ritual by saying that I looked at last year's closing numbers. And one of the things that the comptroller does not like to see is that communities tax the residents and don't spend all the money. We're not, you know, we're not here to build up savings accounts. So and I hadn't been able to look at it because we, because of the auditor hadn't, you know, completely finalized things but, but now he has. I went back and I looked at it, and the budget was for \$184,680 which was public money. And then there was an additional money well, I don't know if they wouldn't include that as public money or not, but there was a library system grant for another \$2200. But if you put all that together, it's \$186,912. And actually, we spent \$206,052. So yes, we did this. It spent all the money that we that we got from the state. And in our revenue was rounded off to about \$200,000 and our expenditures were \$206,000 so we spent more than we than we brought in last year. Not a big deal. You don't want to keep doing that indefinitely, but so it's okay when you do it occasionally. So that was a net loss of \$6600 \$6003 or. \$6300. Okay, any questions on that aspect of things?

Fred: Well, 3% but three Yeah. It's \$6200 Yep, yep. And aren't we. Both the authorities permit us to go as high as 2% on the high side.

Jim: Um, yeah, probably. I. I don't think we ever Well, maybe Arlene would remember if we've ever really taken in more money and more tax money than we've spent?

Arlene: I don't know, Jim. We've always gotten so many donations and such so that I don't, I don't know. Yeah.

Jim: Yeah, but yes, Fred. They do allow us to get a little extra money. No. Okay, any questions on you know,

Cate: let's just, just before we go on, I just want to thank you, Jim, for bringing that to our attention.

Fred: Do you have a problem with your with your microphone?

Cate - Who, me? I don't think so. You can't hear me?

Very poorly.

Your voice is softer tonight.

Let me know. I have a mic. Is that better?

Let me see if I can. Just alright. I'll talk louder. How about that? Does that work? Oh, no. Is that better? Okay.

Jim -Okay, any questions on the p&l or the balance sheet?

Arlene: I just have one question. And I I'm assuming we haven't gotten the bill from the accountant yet because it doesn't show anything spent.

Jim: Deb, is that right.

Deb - We haven't gotten anything from the accountant yet. So no. Okay.

Jim - One thing I noticed is that we are down \$30,000 from last month. And if you take our annual budget, and we shouldn't be spending that much money in any given month, I'm not sure exactly what it's from 15 16,000 a month is typically what we should be running. But that will probably get adjusted next month. Although we are, we did plan this year's budget with the idea that we would be down money and that we would have to take some from the capital fund to make up for it, if any, if anybody remembers that. Any other questions? Or comments? Arlene your mic must be broken.

Arlene: I mean, the things I noticed I'm sure everybody did. I mean we are I was looking for percents and we are we're at 68% expenditures for a budget and we should only be at 66 and two thirds. So

Jim: that's close enough.

Arlene: It's very close.

Jim: If you some things that that are kind of interesting. If you look at. see page two of three of the Profit Loss let me turn the light on here for a second please

Some things have been corrected. Number we had this problem with the percentages where some of the percentages were outlandish, outlandishly high. We've made some corrections on that. So if you look at books and magazines, this one's kind of hard. To see was big it was 91%

last month and 92% this month, but we've increased spending \$1,000 Or about \$1,000 on that so that would be a 10% increase in the overall budget, but it only went up 1% Because we've adjusted the way that that percentage is calculated and down in the program expense again. That was I think 800 and some percent now it's 89%. And library equipment was 626%. Now it's only 100 and only 104%. So we've made some progress in those in those areas and hopefully it won't be as shocking as it was. Okay. I guess we move on to the expenditure details here.

Cate: All right. Thank you, Jim. You're welcome. Right. So we're looking at approval of bill payments and the receipts slide. So we'll start with general operating checking 2/19 through 3/4. Starting with the 23rd of February, with a deposit'

All right, next page general operating checking 3/5 through 3/18.

And I do have a question about this. I am oh I don't know I missed something there. E-pay for visa 7188 But then there is a visa bill that is for 1799

Deb: That's the E-pay on this register's for last month. Okay, so I already, the other visa is for this one.

Cate: Okay. I thought it must be the billing date, something like that. Thank you all right, we'll go on to the operating grants checking 3/5 through 3/18 with a deposit and one payment. Next page is the visa as of March 14 for 1799..

Next is receipts logged 2/11 through 3/9 and then we have the vendor balance detail as of March 14 with a split, small grants for 5491 in general operating for 1319

Deb: vendor balance is for Amazon because we haven't gotten the bill yet.

Okay. Any questions? All right. So we're looking for a motion to approve bill payments. General operating checking 2/ 19 through 3/4 general operating, checking 3/5 through 3/18. operating grants checking 3/5 through 3/18. The visa Bill March 14. As of March 14. Trying to turn the page. Receipts logged 2/11 through 3/9 and the vendor balance detail as of March 14. Have a motion to approve those expenditures.

Arlene, So move. Arlene and second Jane

Cate: any further discussion. All in favor? Aye. Any opposed? Anyone abstaining? okay motion carried Thank you. Directors Report thank you Deb, busy busy. Questions for Deb?

Arlene: I have one of the first page. I'm just curious. So do you have plans for these inclusive conversations?

Deb: Um, I do. I'm thinking about trying to do an environmental talk. And I think the reason I'm thinking that is because you guys keep talking about this solar farm. And I'm not sure much about it. And I wonder how much anybody in the community knows about it. But I don't also don't know who to approach. In the meantime though. I'm going to be, the Young Professionals group is reading a book whose name escapes me at the moment. But the core about it is racism. And so we're going to be discussing that next month.

Arlene: So with the setup beyond that, that you have somebody else come in as a facilitator or is this something you as the director would facilitate? How does it work? I'm curious,

Deb: it could be either way, so that what they're trying to do is teach us to be better facilitators to handle difficult conversations if they come up. But you can also bring in facilitators to run programs. It depends on what the focus is.

Arlene: Well, I'm really happy to see us move forward with that. You know that I've I've wanted us with the new library I've thought about that all along. I see the library as a community center where people can discuss issues that maybe they aren't comfortable with, but at least people can discuss and hear other opinions and other ideas. So I think it's great.

Deb: Thank you. That's one of the reasons I wanted to take the class when the opportunity was given. It's a great idea and very interesting and it's not always comfortable, right, for me to do but I'm learning a lot.

Arlene: and that I love the art show plan. And the plans for the food pantry. Great.

Deb: Yeah, I'm really excited about both of those. I was, I really wish we could do the art show this spring but they already did this year. Yeah.

Arlene: Could we maybe do an adult art show sometime? This year's? When I say this year? I mean before December, whatever, you know.

Deb: We could consider it. Yes. We're also planning, on the photography club wants to do our show of work so I'm thinking about that and we also would like to inform, more informally than what I talked to the art teacher about do a display of the kids from the school so their art

Arlene: I think a show with the artist, I mean, I like the monthly artists. That's great, but a show where the reception and all that I think it's really nice

Cate: yeah, I'm loving the artwork up on the walls. Wow. Beautiful. Any other questions or comments for Deb?

Arlene: Did we get an answer on the responsibility for the snowshoes?

Deb: Not yet. She had to talk to someone. Okay. She didn't think that they would have any issue with being the ones responsible for them.

Cate: Okay. All right. I guess we're ready to move on. Thank you. Any correspondence? No. All right. All right. You're up Friends report. Thank you

Ardeth: well, the only definite fundraiser we have scheduled. We're working on several possibilities but the one we have is some book sale on May 30, which is Memorial Day this year.

So we're getting ready for that. We're hoping we have someone lined up to take the leftover books but that is we haven't gotten that confirmed yet. Otherwise that's on its way. And we approved last night to fund Deb's requests for purchasing some books for the library and that's all I have to say. Thank you.

Deb: They made my evening I have to say

Cate: The paint & sip hasn't gone anywhere Ardeth?

Ardeth: No, um first of all, we, there's a number of possibilities for where it might be held and that wasn't decided but Sarah can't do it on the two dates that were best for the members of our group, and we decided we'd rather reschedule later at a time when we can, all our schedules coincide. Yeah, Try it this way. Somebody else?

Cate: Great. Thank you. I'm just, standing committees, buildings and grounds. Sue: nothing to report at this time.

Okay. Jim, report. Got a report.

Jane: personnel nothing to report.

Arlene: Long Range Plan that is to say that thank you. I've already thanked Deb but I will say thank you again. But you should have received the updated copy of the long range plan that I wasn't able to figure out how to get into that chart I probably put out but I thought it was easier to give it to somebody out so I appreciate Deb or whoever else did it. So everybody has a copy.

Cate: Yeah, actually, we couldn't convert it back. So Deb got in touch with me because I had the Word document. Oh, we we finally put it all together. So all good.

Arlene: No, I guess that's I think that's something to note for the future that when you have a report that's setup like that, that it should you know and that you're going to update it every year that it should be user friendly.

Cate: Well now Deb has the word documents. So Right. And I've got an extra in case there any crashes anywhere. All right. Great, painless. That was That was quick. All right. Unfinished Business solar energy discussion.

Deb: You know forgot Santana public relation

Cate: I checked you off. I don't see your beautiful face. Sorry.

Santina: Yeah, nothing to report.

Okay. Thank you. Santana. I'm so sorry. Okay, so don't put the agenda away Cate. There we go. The solar energy discussion.

Jane: Okay, I have to step back on this discussion because of not being a part of the most recent aspect of what was going on. So I'm throwing it out to somebody else.

Cate: Okay, so what questions have come up for you that haven't been answered? We did have Jermaine look at the contract, and send us an email. What's still in the space for you? For me

no anyone, anybody? Thank you. Yeah. I did look up a bunch of stuff. Like there's information on NYSERDA about whether they called the bill credits that bill credit that's what the solar panels actually produce. Yeah.

Arlene: Yeah, that's still, I mean, I doing business with somebody who can't tell you what you're going to get is kind of strange.

Jim: Well, I guess they can tell you if you if you talk to them. Jermaine is has been in touch with him a couple of times, as late I think as last week, maybe this week. And the person she's talking to agreed wholeheartedly that the contract is poorly written and they apparently are going to meet with their legal people to see about the revising it. So it's not just us.

Cate: Okay, where does that leave us in terms of this contract, though? I mean, how quickly are they revising it?

Jim: Well, it depends what your what your comfort level is. Jermaine said, you know, looking at it that it didn't look like it put us at any risk. So whatever you want to do. I think this is tied in with the state to this whole business. So it can't be too fouled up. Maybe I shouldn't say that. It can't, it can't be too fouled up. What you know, I think it's certainly it has to be reasonably safe for people to sign up for it.

Cate: Yeah, I certainly know people who've done this more than a year ago and there hasn't been any issues, you know, private individuals and NYSERDA has a lot of information on the website. And it's billed through National Grid. So it's, that makes me more comfortable than that one we first looked at. And they came and said we had to use a credit card and it was billed separately and that was like before COVID. So that was when we first got into the building. So this is the time to speak up concerns. Go ahead.

Is there anyone that that doesn't? Want to sign up for this? That feels you know, uncomfortable enough where they don't want to? They don't think we should do it? I guess taking a vote, we're having a motion to approve. And then we'll have a discussion if we have a motion and a second and then we can just have to discuss it further before we end the vote.

Jim: Alright, I'll I'll step right into it. Okay, I move we sign up for this solar farm. We have a second. I'll second.Jane.

Further discussion please. We get to have different opinions.

Jim: I think saving 10% on our power bill. With as far as I can see, little or no risk is a good thing to do. I know there's some, there may be some environmental issues that at the end of the project but I don't and I guess I'm just hopeful that those won't come back to bite us somehow. Yeah. I say us because they wouldn't might fight us it'd be probably a community wherever the solar panels are. are located.

Cate: Yeah. I agree with Jim and having read Bill Gates book on how to avoid climate change. There's nothing that I mean we are making an environmental impact just by being alive and

there. There are no renewable resources that aren't also making an environmental impact. So where does that expression don't don't throw out the good for the great. I don't know something like that.

Jim: Baby with the bathwater a baby with the bathwater.

Arlene: I hope we continue to look at ways to reduce the cost of energy at the library. You know, I don't I don't know if there are any in house. Now this is this has nothing. This is sort of auxiliary to the vote but I don't know where else to bring up these ideas. You know, in house, are there any things that we could be doing to lower the energy consumption? I don't know if there are. Not an idea but I would just say that I think that's something we should be looking at. And then do we, does the library again want to look back sometime in the future to having geothermal wells? Is there some other way or down the line? Would it be prudent for us to have our own solar panels out in the field? I do think you know, I would like to see the library continue to look at reduction of energy costs long term, and to see if there are either additional or perhaps better ways to save on energy costs.

Cate: I absolutely agree. Arlene. Yep. And I also feel I know there aren't many libraries doing this. There are libraries doing this, but we are so dependent on electricity in our library that I guess we could think of it as leading the way. Maybe other libraries will pick up on this now. Somebody has got to be the first in the area to do it. I guess.

Jane: It'd be just coming down to dollars and cents. I think this has been a time in which we could use saving as much as we can.

Arlene: I think we should, library should always be looking to save as much as we can. Yeah.

Cate: So I'm not hearing from anyone else. So we ready for a vote. Go for it. Okay, all in favor. Aye. Aye. Aye. Aye. Aye. Opposed? Abstaining?

Fred: I'm abstaining.

Cate: Fred's abstaining. Okay. Santana, I didn't hear your vote.

Santina: Sorry. Aye

Cate: Okay. So thank you motion carried with one abstention. All right. Thank you, Jane.

Jane: Yeah, not this month.

Cate: No, no. A lot of time, you put a lot of time into it. And,

Arlene: and thanks to Jermaine to for providing the advice.

Cate: Thank you, Jermaine. Yes,

Jane: well, thank you everyone for picking up the slack for me.

Cate: Okay. All good. All right. Well, those were extra meetings and who knew right and so no worries. New business. approval resolution for proposed budget. You all have a copy of that and we've discussed this.

Arlene: Now something showed up that I don't understand and I don't know maybe it was like this last time on page two, under building general contractor or whatever it shows that. From July to December of 21, we spent \$859, which is only a half year and yet we're only budgeting 800 for next year. I'm sure there's an explanation, but I don't know what it is.

The first half of the second sheet? What was that? Yeah, it's the first under maintenance and repair and then line 34. It shows that we spent 859 From July to December of this year, and yet we're only budgeting 800 for the whole next year.

Deb: I don't want to say anything until I think until I find what I'm looking for. If I can find it quickly.

Arlene: I don't even know what that line means frankly

Deb: That would be what we paid, for instance, the guy that came and did the roof last year, shoveling and such on the front or whatever, off the roof itself.

Cate: When we had the ice jam,

Deb: okay. That's not all for him though. I think I can't find my notes but I think the reason why is because one of the line items when I originally did the 859 I think that one of those things didn't belong in there, belonged in a different one. So I felt comfortable lowering it to 800. But I would have to confirm

Arlene: I'm sorry if it was there last time. I didn't notice that.

Deb: It was I didn't change that. I mean, the other reality is there's very few lines I have any control over what they are. That means that's one of the lines I felt like I could decrease some

Cate: Okay any other questions about the budget? Ready to have a motion to approve the budget.

Fred So move: Second. Second. Jim. Jim any further discussion?

Jane: Yeah, I just got a question. Sorry, please. No. Have we gotten a notification that our insurance is going up? I'm on the front page for property and liability. That we're budgeting \$10,000 This year

Deb: he I based it off the fact that we spent 10,000 last year for the year okay.

Jane: That's our insurance policy we have with Utica mutual,

Deb: Amsure. (sp?) Yes. And he had told me that there's a certain percentage of that usually goes up every year. So I use that to figure them out. And it came out about 10,000

Jane: No, I was just wondering if he had you know, given you any indication as to what they are looking out for next year. So okay, no, it was just a question. Sorry. No, that's fine.

Cate: Anything else? All right. All in favor. Aye. Aye. Aye. Aye. Any opposed? Anyone abstaining? Motion carry. All right on to appointment of the election clerk and election



inspectors.

Deb: We have a resolution first. Oh, I'm sorry. You said keep you in line. I'm keeping in line.

Cate: Okay. We are first with the what are we doing first? Resolution election proposition Yeah, election proposition okay to be resolved that...any questions about this? all right. So do we have a motion to approve the public library resolution? Election proposition? Don't blink. Okay, that was Arlene Second. Okay, I think I heard Fred first. Thank you. Sue. Any further discussion? All in favor? Aye. Aye. Any opposed? or abstaining? Motion carries. Thank you.

Now we're doing the election inspection. Election workers inspectors. Motion to approve the appointment of Sharyn Kalinkewicz and Ruth Gerardi as election inspection inspectors on Wednesday, June 8 from two to 8pm at a rate of 13.20 per hour. We have a motion to approve them. So move Jim. Jim, second, Jane. Jim and Jane. All right. Any discussion? All in favor? Aye. Aye. Any opposed? Anyone abstaining? All right, motion carries.

Deb: And then you had to do me as election clerk. Okay, number four.

Cate: Okay, a motion to appoint Deb Flint, Deborah Flint as the election clerk for the election on June 8. So move, Arlene, Arlene. Second Jane.

If there's no discussion all in favor. Aye. Aye. Any opposed? or abstaining? All right, motion carries. All right, I think we're done but well, public comment.

Deb: One question before we finish. Did we want to talk about trying to do the volunteer reception again? Third time's a charm kind of thing.

Cate: We're not afraid we're gonna jinx ourselves? Okay, so what do you think Santana?

Santina: I think I guess we could certainly start considering discussion about, I don't know. I don't honestly recall the last time we had a tentative plan what timeframe we were thinking of. So how soon would we need to then start considering it based on the dates, calendar conflicts, etc.

Cate: I think the last time it was late August when there's snow birds or before school, whatever the reason. Okay, so shall we? Yeah, on the agenda for next month. Okay. Sounds good. Yeah. That's progress. Yay. Okay. All right. So a motion to adjourn. So, move. Jim. A second. Jane

All in favor, aye. Aye. Any opposed? Abstaining? Motion. carries. Meeting adjourned at 7:15.