

**Southeast Steuben County Library  
Board of Trustees – Regular Meeting  
Via Zoom Interactive Platform  
October 15, 2020**

**Trustees Attending:**

President: Barbara A. McLean  
Vice President: Christine Sharkey  
Treasurer: Nancy Kirby Kurjakovic  
Secretary: Julie E. Fromer  
Gail Bardhan  
Barry W. Nicholson  
Kate Paterson  
Louise Richardson  
Jeffrey Scott  
Louise A. Sullivan-Blum

**Absent:**

Hatesh R. Radia

**Guests:**

Pauline Emery, Library Director  
Brad Turner, Assistant Library Director  
Lori Reenan, Library Business Manager

**Call to Order:**

President Barbara A. McLean called the meeting to order at 4:32 p.m.

**Public Comment:**

There was no public comment.

**Consent Agenda:**

**Minutes of the September 17, 2020 Regular Meeting  
September Financial Report**

Barbara McLean called for a motion on the Consent Agenda. On a motion by Louise A. Sullivan-Blum, seconded by Vice President Christine Sharkey, trustees voted unanimously to approve all items therein.

**Director's Report:**

Library Director Pauline Emery said the move of the library from its temporary annex back to its home at 300 Civic Center Plaza went well. The transport of the annex collection, computers, printer, telephones and office equipment was accomplished in two days, with the help of staff members who "came to the rescue," on both ends of the move. Since then, volunteers have been assisting staff in helping to get the collection ready for the library's reopening October 26. Staff members were maintaining staggered hours and everyone continues to be vigilant in safety practices.

Noting that staff members were coping well under stressful circumstances, Pauline Emery said, "Staff is doing great."

**Public Health Request:**

Barbara McLean agreed, noting she emailed a letter of commendation to staff, praising everyone for their resilience and for their commitment to patron service during the past seven months. The President's letter emphasized the library's commitment to best health & safety practices.

Pauline Emery said the library had fielded a request from public health authorities to scope out whether the library could be used for a temporary COVID-19 testing site prior to its reopening to the public. Christine Sharkey is president of Corning Enterprises. She explained that testing, if it were to occur at the library, would be done in cars. Then, the swabs would be brought into the testing area, which would be set up in the Laura Beer Community Room and accessed from a segregated side door. County Health Commissioner Darlene Smith is the lead person in charge. Pauline Emery noted there would be no interaction with staff or volunteers. Kate Paterson said "It seems like a good fix for a terrible problem." The rapid testing would be done by appointment only. Several sites were currently under consideration.\*

Kate Paterson made a motion to allow the library to be considered as a potential testing site prior to reopening. Her motion was seconded by Treasurer Nancy Kirby. Trustees voted unanimously to approve the motion.

**New trustee vote:**

Nominating Committee Chair Barbara McLean said the Committee has nominated East Third Street resident Jamie Curtis to fill a vacancy on the Board of Trustees. A Materials Process Scientist for Corning Incorporated, Jamie Curtis was put forward by Umid Khasanov, a trustee who recently stepped down from the Board. Jamie Curtis currently serves as president of the Twin Tiers Section of the Society of Women Engineers. She has been an active volunteer in several community organizations.

On discussion, there was none. Trustees voted unanimously to appoint Jamie Curtis to fill a vacant At Large term ending December 31, 2022.

**Tax Cap Override:**

Nancy Kirby said the Finance Committee recommended approval of a Tax Cap Override resolution. The resolution, despite its language, does not mean that the library intends to override New York State's 2% Tax Cap. The resolution is a "precautionary measure" that the library has approved each year on the recommendation of the Southern Tier Library System and the New York Library Association.

Barbara McLean read the resolution and called for discussion. There being none, trustees voted unanimously to approve the following resolution:

### **Tax Cap Override Resolution**

Whereas, the adoption of the 2021 budget for the Southeast Steuben County Library requires a tax levy increase that exceeds the tax cap imposed by state law as outlined in general Municipal Law Section 3-c adopted in 2011: and

Whereas, General Municipal Law Section 3-c expressly permits the library board to override the tax levy by a resolution approved by a vote of sixty percent of qualified board members: now therefore be it

Resolved, that the Board of Trustees of the Southeast Steuben County Library voted and approved to exceed the tax levy limit for 2021 by at least the sixty percent of the board of trustees as required by state law on October 15, 2020.

### **Facilities Update and Change Order Vote:**

Facilities Committee Chair Kate Paterson said the Committee met on the October 7 to review several change orders related to the HVAC project and the Health & Safety Improvements project. One outstanding change order needed full board approval because it was incomplete on October 7, when the Committee met.

On a motion by Kate Paterson, trustees approved spending \$9,790 to replace the library's 2000 Amp main circuit breaker. Bouille Electric, Inc. will perform the work.

### **Committee Updates:**

- **Fund Development** – Chair Louise Richardson said Committee members met recently. The Committee has been helping out with the Annual Appeal, discussing ways to build the library's donor base and looking toward a future Capital Campaign.
- **Friends of the Library** – Friends of the Southeast Steuben County Library Liaison Julie Fromer said the Board of Directors met on October 14 via Zoom. "Many ideas were discussed." The next book sale has not been announced.

### **Other Business:**

There was no other business.

### **Adjournment:**

Barbara McLean adjourned the meeting at 4:58 p.m.

The next Regular Meeting of the Library Board of Trustees will be held on November 19, 2020 at 4:30 p.m via Zoom interactive platform.

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\*The library was not selected as a COVID-19 test site. Tests were conducted in October on the grounds of a church in Gang Mills.