

**Southeast Steuben County Library
Board of Trustees
Regular Monthly Meeting
October 20, 2022**

Trustees Attending:

President: Barbara A. McLean
Vice President: Julie E. Fromer
Secretary: Jamie Curtis
Kathryn C. Mack
Kate Paterson
Louise Richardson
Svetlana Short

Absent:

Treasurer: Jeffrey Scott
Gail Bardhan*
Nogaye Ka-Tandia
Barry W. Nicholson

Guests:

Pauline Emery, Library Director

Call to Order:

President Barbara A. McLean called the meeting to order at 4:39 p.m.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

Consent Agenda:

**Minutes of the September 22, 2022 Regular Meeting
September 2022 Financial Reports**

On a motion by Louise Richardson, seconded by Svetlana Short, trustees voted unanimously to accept all items on the Consent Agenda.

Director's Report:

(See Library Director's Report for September 2022)

Library Director Pauline Emery called attention to the art on display in the library through December 31. "The Tradition Bearers," showcases portraits by photo-artist Chris Walters celebrating "those who seek to create community" in the Southern Tier. There will be a reception here, free and open to the public, on November 3 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. The library saw increases in patron usage in most areas year-to-date, and most digital services recorded all-time high usage. Traditional services may be lower. These trends are expected to continue, and the library plans to continue investing in digital content. Pauline Emery also reminded board

*Trustee Gail Bardhan observed the live in-person meeting online.

members that the Great Give Back food and supplies drive was extended through October 22. There will be several upcoming events for all ages. On November 1 in the library, there will be a showing of the film *All the Lonely People* to bring awareness to loneliness. The library's STEM-oriented Scratch Coding Class was scheduled to start soon as well.

Finance:

The Finance Committee met on October 13.

Pauline Emery noted that the Finance Committee expects to draft a 2023 budget, to be voted upon during the November meeting.

Tax Cap Override Resolution

Pauline Emery said the Finance Committee recommended passage of the Tax Cap Override Resolution. The library does not plan to override New York's 2% Tax Cap Law threshold. Similar resolutions approved each year safeguard libraries against potential errors in calculations of their allowable levy increases, which include many variables.

On the recommendation of the Finance Committee, trustees voted unanimously to approve the following resolution:

Whereas, the adoption of the 2023 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 2023 by at least the sixty percent of the board of trustees as required by state law on October 20, 2022.

Southern Tier Library System Cost Share Update:

Pauline Emery said that it was interesting hearing different perspectives from all the libraries last month as the STLS Directors Advisory Council met to vote on the Cost Share plan for 2023 – 2025 and the Digital Library Contributions plan for 2023. Cost Share increases approved were low. Our library will see a Cost Share increase of 1% next year and 2% in 2024 and 2025. It was also decided that there will be an increase of 19% next year in our library's contribution for OverDrive and other Digital Library subscription services. These services are offered collectively to member libraries through STLS. Other libraries in the Southern Tier Library System accepted similar increases.

Committee Updates:

- **Facilities** – Pauline Emery said that construction work on the Mary Lu Walker Children's Room was underway. Uncovered power outlets were discovered under the carpet. These will need to be tested and covered.

Additionally, some of the ceiling tiles may be replaced with different size tiles for easier reassembly after cleaning.

- **Fund Development** – Chair Louise Richardson reported that the Director submitted a grant application to the John G Ullman and Associates Foundation, but we have not yet heard back. The Committee decided to participate in FLX Gives this year to fundraise for the Mary Lu Walker Children’s Room. Additionally, the library was gearing up for the Annual Campaign.
- **Friends of the Library** – Friends of the Library Liaison Julie Fromer said the Friends organization took in more than \$29,000 at its recent book sale. Friends of the Library directors plan to decide on the amount of the organization’s donation to the library at their November meeting.
- **Strategic Planning** – Barbara McLean said the Strategic Planning Committee met recently and reviewed strategic objectives. Committee members critiqued the website and planned to discuss examples of library websites they like at the next meeting. The committee also noted that next year will be the 150th anniversary of the first public library in Corning. Trustees discussed potential ways to celebrate with the community.

Other business:

Barbara McLean shared that trustees should expect to complete NYS required annual sexual harassment prevention training on Nov 17, along with the regular meeting.

Adjournment:

Barbara McLean adjourned the meeting at 5:16 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Library Board of Trustees was scheduled for November 17, 2022 at 4:30 p.m. in the library.