



MINUTES

NOVEMBER 17, 2023 PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD MEETING

Friday, November 17 2023, 11:00 am

Via: ZOOM/Public

Present: Patti McArthur – Board Chair
Ruth Jones – CEO/Treasurer
Nicole McKinnon
Sue Michalicka
Emily (Meyers) Thompson
Lois Thomson – Councillor
Kate Zeyl

Absent:
Barry Brydges

1. Call to Order

(An Excel spreadsheet detailing the Budget submission has been attached for review and discussion)

The meeting was called to order at 11:03

2. Approval of Agenda

- Additions/deletions
- Approved by consensus

3. Declaration of any Conflict of Interest

4. Approval of Minutes Dated October 11, 2023

- Approved by consensus

5. CEO Budget 2024

○ **Budget Presentation**

- Library CEO, Ruth Jones presented her materials prepared for Council's upcoming budget meeting. Copies of the finalized PowerPoint deck can be requested from Ruth.
- Ruth embedded a video explaining what the library does, but expressed concern that there may be technical issues. Lois said that the Council capacity is local so it should not be a streaming issue. The Board was very supportive of including the video.
- 600 Science kits are now in the community (Slide to be updated).
- Fundraising targets have been lowered because as we are a public library, clients should not be expected to pay out-of-pocket for every program. We would rather restrict fundraising to specific needs (i.e.. A new printer) as opposed to ongoing operating costs.
- Our funding request is a small 5% increase which is reflected in our increase in services, programs and clients. We were able to reduce operating costs.
- Patti reviewed the Statistics Canada demographic profile of Greater Madawaska from the most recent Census and we are seeing a dramatic resurgence of families in the area, which we have addressed in our programs. We continue to serve our large senior population with targeted materials/programs for this audience. Lois urged Ruth to refer to the changes to our demographic profile to underline that we are in line with the population
- Emily suggested we express the "ask" as a % of the overall Township budget (which would be very, very small) rather than a dollar amount (which looks bigger).
- If we have numbers, it would be powerful to include the number of volunteer hours that have been instrumental in helping keep the lights on.

- **Vote to Approve – approved by unanimously consensus (with particular support for the video with a proposal to use it after the budget presentation on our website)**

7. Other Business

- Our Board member emeritus – Lucie Perrier – passed away November 9 after a long illness. A celebration of her life will be held at The Funeral Cooperative of Ottawa, 419 St Laurent Blvd, Ottawa, Tuesday, November 28 from 10 am until 2 pm.
<https://www.fco-cfo.coop/.../death.../lucie-perrier-251124/>
- Five families have signed up for the Advent Book packages but Ruth expects a much larger turnout after another promotion today
- In response to an inquiry about the Library sponsoring a “Mitten” tree, there appears to be a number of services for families in need. We will make inquiries as to what’s being done in the community and coordinate efforts.
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- **Next Meeting Date**
 - The next meeting will be delayed until January (Congratulations to this Board on our first year together.)
 - Starting in January, we as Board will begin to assess our mission and long-term goals

8. Adjournment

- Meeting was adjourned at 11:56
- Approved by consensus



Prepared by Sue Michalicka