



## **MINUTES**

### **WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2025 – PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD MEETING**

**Wednesday, February 12, 2025, 9:00am**

**Via: ZOOM/Public**

#### **Present:**

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

Guest: Renee Mask, CAO

#### **1. Call to Order**

- 9:01 am

#### **2. Approval of Agenda**

- Additions/deletions -- none
- Approved by consensus

#### **3. Declaration of any Conflict of Interest**

- None

#### **4. Approval of Minutes Dated December 11, 2024**

- Approved by consensus

#### **5. Finance Report**

- Connectivity reimbursement application submitted – worth \$1600 to us.
- Inter Library Loans rebate – paid directly from the Provincial Library Association -- is in the bank (\$504). This money is designed to reimburse some of the postal costs we incur as the result of participating in inter library load programs
- Finance binder – submitted to GM for review, audit to follow. Renee reported that the Library has been reconciled and will be submitted to Auditors next Tuesday. At that time, we can get a copy of what was submitted.
- Finance Statement for January has been completed.
- Application to TD Friends of the Environment Foundation via Watersheds to provide further funding to our current back-pack water health program

## **6. CEO Report**

- Welcome Package inclusion: the package that goes to new residents will now include an information component from the Library. As well, information on the Library and how to obtain membership will be included on the Township brochure. Big thanks to everyone who helped with this effort which will help with our new resident outreach.
- Annual Public Library Survey is in the works (This report to the Ontario is an annual compulsory requirement required by the province)
- Programming developments
  - GM Recreation Committee has agreed to work with the Library to coordinate activities.
  - Other program proposals currently in the works include: Chess workshop, meditation, healthy eating on a budget. We are still seeking a fitness/yoga program coordinator – we had 10-15 regulars in the last session that was offered. Ruth is in preliminary conversation with a candidate.
  - Renee asked how we currently promoted these programs. Ruth answered that we use posters around Calabogie and area, a regular column in The Highlander, notices on the

Township calendar and webpage, posters at the school and the library, as well as maximizing all social media channels.

- Seniors Active Living Centre – The Township was successful in securing \$55K funding which they are confident will be enough to provide up to various workshops Township-wide (on such diverse topics as connectivity, promoting health, busing excursions, recreation) to be led by seniors' groups themselves.
- The budget submitted to the province is \$93K for next year. The Township is looking to the Library to assist in delivery coordination, providing training as well as Lunch&Learns. If the Library has any programs geared to seniors, the Township would like to include details in the Townships promotion efforts through GMSelf.
- Because there is lot being offered Township-wise, we want to ensure that the Township wants to solidify the relationship with the Library not only to maximize exposure throughout the entire area, but to take advantage of delivery channels already in place. Lois added from the Library's POV, we need to improve the level of participation in programming in the west end which will improve numbers in every Ward.
- Renee will be submitting a proposal to establish a full time programming specialist – initially dedicated to seniors but eventually for all age groups. She feels this position's focus will achieve the capacity to support all programming – including recreation and culture activities.
- Considerable effort has already been expended to extend library programming beyond Calabogie village (e.g. Tony Beck, wildlife photographer in Dacre). Renee was encouraged to see just how much programming was already operational in the Township – these efforts will work to provide coordination. Patti described the work we've done with Watersheds to promote various water conservation efforts – an issue that has been identified by citizens to be of major concern especially as the number of tourists increases.
- Patti now has a number of contacts to provide education, programming and specific resources that can be shared across

the entire geographic area. Lois reiterated that there has been excellent uptake for lake health information sessions in the areas outside the village through the local Fish and Wildlife Associations and added that she will make the Highlander available for additional information dissemination. Patti said that the Library has some funds available to support this.

- Renee said the Township has \$12K available for some program funding – but it is primarily earmarked for senior this fiscal year. Ruth asked if we could get access to the Township’s current contact list of those groups that have been consulted to day – with the aim of establishing consultation and steering committees.
- In a follow-up to issues raised at the last meeting: Patti confirmed that we consolidated our bank accounts and have transferred funds to our GIC. We are not certain what the effect of tariffs will have on our purchasing, but the consolidation will allow us to keep some cash-on-hand to address unexpected price increases.

## **7. Other Business**

- Sue advised the Board members of a recent CBC broadcast that identified a growing problem for small community libraries when special interest groups apply pressure to elected representatives to link Library funding to their social/political agendas. The report can be viewed here: [A shadow war on libraries](#).
- The report cited a case in Alberta where the community library was forced to close and move their operations to a school complex that would cut its current size in half and potentially subject the Library to restrictive provincial rules around LGBTQ expression in schools.
- Lois asked if we have had any incidents of “book banning” and Ruth said we have had a few complaints about Young Adult book content that parents objected to, but these were easily resolved to everyone’s satisfaction. During COVID there was a complaint that resulted from an issue trending on social media against Dr. Suess books that we were able to dismiss, and we have had one complaint regarding artbooks that contained images of “unclothed adults”. Otherwise, our community has been very supportive of the material and programming we offer. Sue

offered the information (and link above) so that Board Members can stay informed of issues affecting community Libraries in Canada.

## **8. Adjournment**



Meeting was adjourned at 9:46 am (Lois moved to adjourn, Emily seconded)

Happy Valentine's Day

Minutes prepared by Sue Michalicka.