

TOMPKINS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
JANUARY 25, 2022

TCPL Board Members Present: Martha Hardesty, President; Blixxy Taetzsch, Liam Murphy, Don Trotter, Nina Scholtz, Nina Miller, Jason Moore, Melisa Sidle, LaWanda Cook

Board Members Excused: Shelley Wong, Ingrid Jensen

Also Present: Teresa Vadakin, Interim Director; Megan Molloy, Head of Adult Services; Michelle Benjamin, Business Manager; Mary McKeon, Administrative Manager; Kerry Barnes; TCPL Foundation Interim Director; Yvette Rubio, TCPL Foundation Liaison; Amanda Champion; County Legislator

With a quorum now present, meeting convened at 4:02 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA DOC 22-01

A **MOTION** was made by J. Moore and seconded by M. Sidle to approve the agenda. Approved unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS

APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 14, 2021 DRAFT MINUTES DOC 22-02

A **MOTION** was made by N. Miller and seconded by J. Moore to approve the minutes with minor corrections. Approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF YEAR END 2021 BILLS

I, Treasurer, Blixxy Taetzsch, in keeping with New York State Education Law, certify that I have reviewed payroll #26 dated 12/29/21 totaling \$52,543.10. I have reviewed all vouchers presented for payment, and that all disbursements are within the approved operating budget of the library, and therefore recommend that the Board of Trustees approve for payment December 2021 Year End bills in the amount of \$82,893.38 as listed in Abstracts #38 and #39.

APPROVAL OF JANUARY 2022 BILLS

I, Treasurer, Blixxy Taetzsch, in keeping with New York State Education Law, certify that I have reviewed payroll #1 dated 1/13/22 and #2 dated 1/27/22 totaling \$104,913.97. I have reviewed all vouchers presented for payment, and that all disbursements are within the approved operating budget of the library, and therefore recommend that the Board of Trustees approve for payment January 2022 bills in the amount of \$160,781.02 as listed in Abstracts #1, #2 and #3.

APPROVAL OF NOMINEES OF TRUSTEES

Hardesty on behalf of Jensen recommended Ingrid Jensen and Blixxy Taetzsch whose current term ends in 2021, for three years beginning in January 2022. Approved Unanimously.

APPROVAL OF RECLASSIFICATION OF SENIOR CLERK

Approved unanimously.

ASSISTANT DIRECTORS REPORT

Assistant Director Vadakin shared some good news. Recently, the library in partnership with the Foundation received the *American Rescue Plan: Humanities Grants for Libraries award*, funded by the [National Endowment for the Humanities \(NEH\)](#). The funds equal \$10,000 and will allow the library to expand Literacy Inside and Out initiative with the Tompkins County Jail.

Head of Adult Services Meghan Molloy talked about the expansion, which would include audiobooks, magazine subscriptions, and tablets with preloaded e-content (there is no internet access in the jail, so preloaded content would be required). She also mentioned that the funds will pay for professional fees, such as for outside presenters to lead programs on things like writing workshops or art journaling. Finally, the Tompkins County Jail plans to purchase Chromebooks to provide more pre-loaded digital content, plus accessories such as screen protectors.

Vadakin also discussed the new expansion of Books by Mail and the new name, Libraries by Mail. This service will deliver library materials to homebound residents, residents concerned about Covid or at risk or those who are experiencing difficulty getting to the library. This will include books, audiobooks, dvds, cds, and magazines. The launch date is February 1st.

Vadakin also discussed the Test Kits the County has asked to be distributed. 1500 kits will be delivered Wednesday and the leadership team has been brainstorming distribution. These test kits will also be made available at the Foodbank of the Southern Tier, St. John's Community Services, and the Towns of Enfield, Danby, and Caroline. The focus on distribution will be for individuals who may not otherwise be able to obtain testing.

LIAISON REPORTS

County - A. Champion announced Shawna Black is the chair, Debra Dawson is the Vice Chair. Champion gave an update on Booster Clinics at the mall on Saturday, kids twelve and up can get the booster. The health department is shifting contact tracing to the state, while relying on home tests. We are shifting from pandemic to endemic while it is not the crisis that it was.

Foundation – K. Barnes gave an update on 2022 fundraising plans; a social media campaign where we share different ways that people can show the library love. A Library Lovers Facebook frame that you can add to your profile picture and cards at a display at the entry to the Avenue of the Friends in the Library where people can share their answer to “My Library helped me _____.” The stories shared on these cards will be used by Foundation staff as well as shared for Advocacy Day.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A **MOTION** was made by D. Trotter and seconded by J. Moore to adjourn to Executive Session at 4:40 p.m. Assistant Director Teresa Vadakin was invited to attend. The trustees asked Vadakin

for any updates, questions, or comments she might like to share with the board in executive session. Vadakin was excused at 4:56 p.m. The trustees then discussed outstanding work and other board priorities.

There being no further business, a **MOTION** was made by L. Murphy and seconded by J. Moore to adjourn Executive Session at 5:08 p.m. Approved unanimously.

There being no further business for the public session, a **MOTION** was made by L. Murphy and seconded by J. Moore to adjourn the meeting at 5:09 p.m. Approved unanimously.

Recorded by Mary McKeon
Administrative Manager

Endorsed by Melisa Sidle
Secretary