

TOMPKINS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SEPTEMBER 27, 2022

TCPL Board Members Present: Ingrid Jensen, President; Blix Taetzsch, Martha Hardesty, Don Trotter, Nina Scholtz, Jason Moore, Melisa Sidle, Liam Murphy, Shelley Wong, Marli Stahler, LaWanda Cook, Nina Miller

Also Present: Teresa Vadakin, Interim Director; Michelle Benjamin, Business Manager; Mary McKeon, Administrative Manager; Kerry Barnes; TCPL Foundation Director, Amanda Champion, County Liaison

With a quorum now present, meeting convened at 4:05 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA DOC 22-73

A **MOTION** was made by M. Sidle and seconded by L. Murphy to approve the agenda with the addition of a Bylaw Report. Approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AUGUST 23, 2022 DRAFT MINUTES DOC 22-74

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

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS

I, Treasurer, Blix Taetzsch, in keeping with New York State Education Law, certify that I have reviewed payroll #18 dated 9/8/22 and #19 dated 9/22/22 totaling \$101,356.38. 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 September 2022 bills in the amount of \$198,605.78 as listed in Abstracts #26, #27 and #28.

BYLAWS COMMITTEE REPORT

L. Murphy updated the board on the changes to committee charges, including gender and more inclusive language. The bylaw committee incorporated changes for each committee. There have been questions raised by legislature staff regarding the work of each committee. A. Champion explained the legislature clerks' questions were to work on streamlining the process. Champion mentioned they are responsible for 40 -50 advisory boards, where they appoint the trustees, keep track of the new terms, term limits, and resignations.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A **MOTION** was made by L. Murphy and seconded by N. Miller to adjourn to Executive Session at 4:19 p.m. Assistant Director Teresa Vadakin was invited to join.

The first item of discussion was the draft PSA union contract, circulated to the trustees for review in advance of the meeting. Board Treasurer B. Taetzsch, who led the management negotiating team, walked the trustees through the highlights of the contract. D. Trotter and T. Vadakin, also on the negotiating team, shared their perspectives. After a discussion, the trustees expressed appreciation for the team's work in ensuring a fair contract that is good for both the PSA and the library.

The trustees then turned their attention to the search for a new director, having recently concluded interviews with the finalist candidates. Search Committee Co-Chair, N. Scholtz, shared the Search Committee's official recommendation to the board, as well as highlights from the committee's discussions earlier that day. The trustees asked Vadakin for her perspectives, noting Vadakin has been in the acting director position for one year. Vadakin shared her thoughts and was then excused at 4:54 p.m. After further discussion, the trustees reached consensus. They also revisited a proposal from the previous year by the Finance and Personnel Committee regarding director compensation.

A **MOTION** was made by D. Trotter and seconded by S. Wong to adjourn Executive Session at 5:16 p.m. Approved unanimously.

Upon returning to public session, a **MOTION** was made by N. Miller and seconded by L. Cook to approve the PSA contract for the period of January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2024, as presented and ratified by the union. Approved unanimously.

A **MOTION** was then made by M. Stahler and seconded by M. Sidle to authorize N. Scholtz, in her capacity as Search Committee Co-Chair, to check references on the board's preferred candidate and, should said references be positive, to make an offer consistent with the compensation range set by the Finance and Personnel Committee in their July 21, 2021 memo to the board. Approved unanimously. There being no further business, a **MOTION** was made by L. Murphy and seconded by S. Wong to adjourn the meeting at 5:19 p.m. Approved unanimously.

Recorded by Mary McKeon
Administrative Manager

Endorsed by Melisa Sidle
Secretary