

Library Board Meeting - December 10, 2019

Members Present: Library Director Christina Becker; Board Members Jen Baker-Porazinski, Sue Mitchell, Sue Sawyer, Bob Odess, Mary Laedlein, Klem Crowe, Ken Gottry and Monica Ravreby

SM made a motion to waive the reading of the minutes. MR seconded. All were in favor.

Treasurer's Report:

BO reviewed the Treasurer's report.

SM made a motion to accept, KG seconded. All were in favor.

New Business:

We discussed Christmas gifts to employees. KG made a motion to spend up to \$1000 for gifts. MR seconded. All were in favor.

We discussed the article JBP sent from NPR on fines and considering going "fine free" because the purpose of the library is to serve the community and many who use it may not be able to afford fines. There is discussion to do more research from local libraries that already do this. Copy and fine money averages \$3000-4000 a year. We would need to reach out to the community prior to making any decision about this.

BO made a motion to increase Canaan's pay from \$9/hr to the minimum wage. ML seconded. All were in favor.

Policy Review:

We reviewed the "Library Operating Policy." CB had made changes to ahead of the meeting including the library hours, the library director's work week as well as the Substitute and Page's work week, and the holiday closure changes (closed Friday after Thanksgiving but open Halloween night). She also updated fines and added laptops to this policy. CB also added a sentence about weather closure based on school district closure.

All agreed that the policy changes were acceptable. This policy was reviewed and adopted today.

Old Business:

CB provided the board copies of and reviewed the cost estimate for the proposed library renovations which is broken down to 2 phases (phase 1: \$901,000, phase 2: \$1,805,000). There is considerable savings if both phases are completed at once (total: \$2,134,000).

CB is looking into grants and will be speaking with Sara Dallas about their availability.

Library Director Report:

CB reviewed the proposed budget for 2020-2010 fiscal year. She proposes a 2% raise to salaries. Under contractual expenses, she proposes the typical increase for books/audio-visual and periodicals by \$500. There is a proposal to increase the school budget appropriation by \$3000. The board suggested budgeting for library director travel costs, which we estimated at \$300.

The Finance workshop and dinner in October with Marion Watkins was attended by 23 people. There are plans for more workshops in January. The first workshop on 1/14 at 6:00 will be on debt management.

The board approved to pay for a NYLA membership association which is \$75 every year.

Patricia Jennings requested in her will that friends and family donate to the Cambridge Library for children books. To date we have received \$1,470.

There is a Climate Crisis presentation planned for 1/11 at 2:00 from an Albany professor.

CB shared the new edition of "The Villager" with the board.

CB notes that the Village of Cambridge website has been updated by Jim Sweeney and he offered to help us with our website.

Betsy and the kids will be working on our advent window this Thursday and Friday, which will be lit 12/14.

The next library board meeting will be held at 4:45 on Tuesday 1/28/19.