

**Roeliff Jansen Community Library  
Board of Trustee Meeting Minutes  
April 15th, 2025**

**Present:** Chris Atkins

Barbara Barrantes-Vice President

Marian Dodds

Beth Gordon

Marilyn Gross

Colleen Lutz- Secretary

Ronnie McTiernan

Betsy Myers

Steve Smith

Meg Wormley-Treasurer

Tammy Gaskell, Director

**Absent:** Pat Placona- President, Joan Wallstein

**Guests:** None

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Vice President Barbara Barrantes.

**Review and Approval of Minutes**

The Board reviewed the March minutes and proposed changes prior to the meeting. Betsy Meyers made a motion to approve the minutes with amendments. Ronnie McTiernan seconded the motion, all were in favor, motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report**

Meg Wormley gave the treasurer's report. There were no questions about the report from the Board.

She noted that Berkshire Taconic had not issued the quarterly report yet, although the results were available on their website. The library fund had increased \$21,609.

Income of \$71,356 was \$58,650 over budget because Copake's tax payment was received in March. Expenses of \$31,354 were \$9,028 below budget because expenses budgeted for March were not yet incurred.

Meg noted that the deposit for the generator (\$55,000) and the plans for the pavilion (\$3,147) were part of the capital expenses.

A motion was made to approve the warrant report by Steve Smith. Chris Atkins seconded the motion, and all trustees voted in favor. The motion carried.

### **Director's Report**

Tammy Gaskell presented the director's report. There were no questions from the Board.

Generator Project Updates- Tammy reported that the deposit for the generator was paid (see treasurers report). Herrington's quoted a price of \$10,525 for a 1,000-gallon propane tank and wiring. The pad was now estimated to cost about \$6,400, up from the original \$4,200. BCI (Berlinghoff Contracting) has quoted the generator at \$77,446.16. Overall, the project cost was estimated to be about \$94,371.86 for 100 kwh generator. That size generator would power the entire library. A \$3,000 contingency was included in the budgeted amount. This project would be reimbursed by Michele Hinchey's CREST grant.

Meg Wormley made a motion to approve the cost of the concrete pad at \$6,400. Steve Smith seconded the motion, all voted in favor, the motion carried.

Sexual Harassment training was due and needed to be completed in the month.

Tammy shared that the resolution, created by Hillsdale, was adopted by the town boards of Ancram, Copake, and Taghkanic. A press release was scheduled with the supervisors of Ancram, Copake, and Hillsdale.

Tammy reported that IMLS has been closed, and the employees have been put on administrative leave until May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025. Each state was receiving letters about loss of funding, and she reported that it is just a matter of time until New York receives a letter. The reduction in funding could impact the state construction grant, among other services provided by the New York Library System.

The library received a \$1,500 Humanities NY grant; however, it is uncertain if it has been funded since the endowment has been cut.

Tammy also reported that the library assessment fee may go up because of the reduced funds available to MHLS.

The ESL program was still funded and being held, but with much less advertising.

Finally, she reported that a mobile app was going to be launched which will store the library users barcode for ease of access.

### **Friend's Report**

Ronnie McTiernan gave the Friends report. She reported that in March, the Bookshop had made \$934. There was \$9,947 in the bank account.

The Friends purchased two barcode scanners that were compatible with the new app. Each scanner cost approximately \$340 each.

## **Committee Reports**

*Building Administration*- No report.

*Development*- Betsy Myers gave the report to the Board.

Annual Appeal: As of 3/18, the library received \$96,840.

NLW: 4/6-4/12 As of 4/8, there were 53 donors, \$6,924 collected which was an average of \$130 gift size. The gift size is similar to the 2024 gift size.

Gala: The invitations were planned to be sent out April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025. The website has been updated with the information. The live auction had 10-12 items, and the silent auction had about forty-two items.

Betsy reported that she was drafting an article about the Charlotte Society in the newsletter.

*Human Resources*- No report

*Nominating*- No report

*Outreach*- No report.

*Finance*- No report.

*414 Committee*- Steve reported that the committee met and discussed the numbers and percentages. They decided the target would be a 6.5% increase in the operating budget, therefore, the goal was to cover 45% of the operating expenses by taxation.

Beth Gordon asked how this would be received. Steve reported that currently, the taxes cover about 30% of the operating budget, which is equivalent to \$5.40/\$100,000 of full market value. At 45% of the operating budget, the cost would be \$8.98/\$100,000. Messaging and information will be key.

Tammy reported that our cost was extremely low, for comparison, Claverack was currently \$10/\$100,000 and they were planning to increase that to \$12/\$100,000.

Tammy reminded the board that the 414 should be viewed as an investment in a service or infrastructure in a community.

Betsy Myers made a motion to approve the 414 initiative to increase the taxation rate in the towns of Ancram, Copake, and Hillsdale to cover 45% of the operating budget of the Roe Jan Library. Marilyn Gross seconded the motion, all voted in favor, motion carried.

*Pavillion Committee*- Tammy reported that the Copake Planning Board approved the plan. The RFQ has been completed. The timeline was still in development.

**Old Business**

The roof was nearing completion now that the weather was better. The last payment will be made when the work is completed to the specifications.

**New Business**

None.

Barbara Barrantes made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Beth Gordon seconded the motion, and all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 6:40 pm.

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Respectfully Submitted  
Colleen Lutz, Secretary

