

**Northville Public Library
Board of Trustees
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, July 16, 2024**

This meeting had been canceled earlier in the afternoon due to localized tornado & T-storm warnings in the area. As the storm had passed, the meeting was re-convened with the need to transfer funds from the Foundation to NBT Bank. Those who could, met at 6:30 for a condensed board meeting.

In attendance: Cristen Shepard, Richard Cole, Michael Feldman, Alisha Rivera-Holmes, Stella

Public attendee: Mike Warner

The meeting began with a brief discussion of upcoming construction and where to store new windows. If windows will be stored in the library that section of the library will need to be restricted from public access. If windows will be stored in Cole's garage: window installation will need to be top priority.

The library will need to be closed 2-3 days (preferably Fri Sat Sun) while work is completed.

Motion Approved: Remove \$25,000 from Building Fund and deposit it into NBT checking account (Feldman, Shepard) passed unanimously

With Mark Boleburch with *On The Mark* as the library's newly hired accountant the financial data needs to be shared with him. Feldman will pick a time that is suitable for meeting Mark Boleburch at the library for that to occur.

To elucidate: The Northville Public Library manages the Foundation (not *On The Mark*), as the Foundation is not public funds

Rivera-Holmes advised she has been invited to attend Edinburg school's Open House on Thursday, 9.19.24 to educate interested parties about the \$5 donation requested from Edinburg students/families to support the Northville Public Library, their out of district library. It will be explained it is only a donation being requested, and if it cannot be paid by the student or their family it will be covered by the Foundation so every Edinburg student will have access to the Northville Public Library.

Josh is coming to replace the thermostat.

It was noted there will be a discrepancy in the Comptroller's annual report (which an extension has been requested for precise completion), as the library's non-public funds have since been separated from the public funds. All prior years' reports have the public & non-public funds erroneously co-mingled.

Public Session: Mike Warner, a Northville village resident, was in attendance, and had many questions for the Library Board and Director. He expressed displeasure at the increase to his taxes for the public library, and asked for numbers on how many people actually use the library. When those figures were presented he questioned whether it is the same people who repeatedly frequent the library to increase the total.

Mr. Warner confessed he has only been inside the library a total of three times since it was built, asked why this library is separate from the Northville Central School library, and wanted to know why everyone cannot just use the school library. It was spelled out that the school library is for students, the public library is for everyone, and this is how the Northville Public Library is chartered with NY State.

He shared he is unhappy with NYS politics and how NYS does things. He asked why people who use the library cannot pay for books they borrow vs those who do not read & check out books not pay for services they do not use.

It was explained to him that even though some Board members do not have children attending NCS we still must pay taxes to support the school, and the same applies to the public library. Mr. Warner was encouraged to visit the library and become familiar with all it has to offer, or consider running for the library board.

He admits he does not use the library and does not like paying taxes for something he does not use. He asked why we have to keep increasing our budget to pay for additional employees when the library only had volunteers when it originally opened.

We apprised him that this is the first time in several years the library has been on the ballot with an increase, and that our growth over the last thirty plus years has been dictated by the public's needs. We counseled him on proprietary patron information. We advised we hire the best employee(s) with experience in order to reduce time training someone brand new. We educated him on the budget, which must be increased in order to pay the rising costs of utilities, building maintenance, and other operating expenses. We also voiced it is on the voter to either pass or deny the budget, and suggested he may be better served discussing his opinions with other constituents.

Mr. Warner told us he is illiterate and conservative, and only knows how to sign-on and enter his password when using a computer. It was offered that the library can help him with these things: learning to read and/or how to operate a computer, if he utilizes the library.

We enlightened him that we as a library board do not always agree and have lengthy discussions & votes to reach the best possible outcome for the public. We informed him our Financial officer is always looking for ways to save money and keep the budget in line.

It was made clear that there are many things in addition to books the library offers at no cost: the Libby app (audiobooks, eBooks, magazines); Art Exhibits/reception; Lego Club; Herb Garden; telescopes; Ice Cream Social & Raffle; Mammoth Book Sale; Sacandaga Garden club displays; NPT 100 guest speaker; Solar Eclipse party; Summer Reading program; Children's Story Hour. And it was shared that these are funded by grants, donations, fundraising, or people volunteering their own personal time and resources.

At the end of Public Session Mr. Warner was escorted out and the Board went into Executive Session.

Adjourned: 7:33 PM (Feldman, Shepard)

Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 17, 2024