

TOMPKINS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY  
DRAFT MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
And of the Executive Committee  
TUESDAY, September 24, 2024

TCPL Board Members Present:

Melisa Sidle (Pres), Lis Chabot (V.P.), Liam Murphy (Sec'y), Nina Scholtz, Kathy Weinberg, Marli Stahler

TCPL Board Members Absent:

Christina Brewington, Darrell Long, Jason Moore, Blixy Taetzsch (Treas.), Mimi Townsend, Shelley Wong,

Also Present:

Leslie Tabor, Director, Tanya VanCamp, Business Manager, Kerry Barnes, TCPL Foundation Executive Director,

Liaisons Absent:

Rich John, County Legislator

Public – 5 members of the public (including 2 Library staff members) were present

- A. CALL TO ORDER - The meeting convened at 4:09pm, but a quorum was not present. As a result, we noted publicly that no business could be approved.
- B. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA  
Motion by Chabot to amend the agenda to add a report from the President and Vice President, seconded by Scholtz, was unanimously approved
- C. PUBLIC COMMENT
  1. A member of the public identifying herself as Vicki made a number of comments on recent changes to the use of Library areas and the recent weeding of the collection.
  2. James Oakland commented on action taken against his brother concerning access to the Library
- D. ACTION ITEMS
  1. Minutes of June 25, 2024 – there were no offered comments or changes to the minutes
  2. Audit of Bills
    - a. VanCamp distributed the Expenses for Board Approval dated September 24, 2024. Sidle noted that the presentation included a substantial expenditure to add materials to the collection as well as a \$10,000 expense for improvements to the Youth Services area.
    - b. The Board noted the need to approve the Expenses. At 4:25pm, Murphy moved to adjourn the Meeting to allow for a called special meeting of the Executive Committee for the purpose of approving the Expenses as presented. Chabot seconded and the motion was unanimously approved. The Board meeting was adjourned at 4:25pm.

*Minutes of a called Special Meeting of the Executive Committee  
(this meeting was held in the same room with the public and the rest of the Board continuing in attendance)*

*The Executive Committee then convened with Sidle, Chabot and Murphy attending and forming a quorum. Sidle then stated that she certified, in keeping with New York State Education Law, that she had reviewed payroll #18 dated September 5, 2024, totaling \$67,656.72 and payroll #19 totaling \$65,511.46. Further, Sidle stated she reviewed all vouchers presented for payment as shown on Abstract #26, dated September 5, 2024 totaling \$30,526.05 and Abstract #27, dated September 19, 2024 totaling \$79,492.16 and Abstract #28, dated September 24, 2024, totaling \$80,949.31 and that all disbursements are within the approved operating budget of the library, and therefore recommend that the Executive Committee approve for payment September bills in the amount of \$190,967.52. The motion to approve the payment passed unanimously. Murphy made a motion to adjourn the Executive Committee meeting, Chabot seconded and the motion passed unanimously at 4:29pm.*

At 4:30pm, Scholtz moved to reconvene the meeting of the Board, Weinberg seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

3. Nominating Committee. Chabot introduced Sarah Clausen who is being proposed as a new member for the Board. She discussed Ms. Clausen's background and interest in the Library.

#### E. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ms. Sidle reminded all Board members of the need to engage in at least 2 hours of training each year. She also noted that the Fingerlakes Library System will have its annual meeting on October 19 and board members are asked to report if they can attend by October 3. Finally, Ms. Sidle noted that she has been meeting with Director Tabor monthly to coordinate between the Board and the Director.

#### F. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

In addition to her written report, Director Tabor noted she would make a presentation to the Legislature on the Library's budget that evening at 6pm. She noted the current fiscal reality that the County is asking all budget entities to reduce their budgets by 5%. The unfortunate result of that request is that the Library might well have to reduce services as a result. Director Tabor also noted that the Library is seeking a Communications Director who may be able to take on some of the role of the former Volunteer Coordinator. Finally, she noted that she had been appreciating the sessions she has had with a consultant to help her consider various communications issues.

#### G. LIAISON REPORTS

1. County – Legislator Johns could not attend because of the Legislature's ongoing budget presentations
2. Foundation – Barnes reported that the Foundation is starting its year-end fundraising by visiting major donors. The Foundation was having a fund-raising gathering called the "Silent Reading Party" this evening at South Hill Cider. The Foundation Board had finished Barnes' evaluation and has decided to retain her in the Executive Director position. The Foundation is looking forward to a joint meeting with the Board of Trustees in December at a date to be announced.

3. Friends – Scholtz noted that the October sale will start on the weekend of October 11, 2024 and continue for 3 weekends – Board members are encouraged to volunteer.

H. WRITTEN REPORTS – there were no questions or comments raised on these reports.

I. New Business – no items of new business were raised.

At 4:45pm, Scholtz moved to adjourn the Board meeting, Weinberg seconded and the motion was unanimously passed.