

TOMPKINS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY  
DRAFT MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
DECEMBER 17, 2024

TCPL Board Members Present: Lis Chabot, Liam Murphy, Darrell Long, Shelly Wong, Blix  
Taetzsch, Mimi Townsend, Christina Brewington, Marli Stahler, Kathy Weinberg

Board Members Excused: Nina Scholtz, Jason Moore

Also Present: Leslie Tabor, Director; Tonya VanCamp, Business Manager, Kerry Barnes, TCPL  
Foundation Executive Director, Mary McKeon, Administrative Manager; Kate DeVoe,  
Circulation Manager; Kat Savage, YS Dept. Head; Judd Karlman, AS Dept. Head, Rich John;  
County Legislature Liaison

With a quorum, meeting convened at 4:04 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

APPROVAL OF AGENDA DOC 24-82

A **MOTION** was made by S. Wong and seconded by D. Long to approve the agenda. Approved  
unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The following attended the meeting and addressed the board:

1. Jeremy Jordan
2. Shelby Buche

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 19, 2024 MINUTES DOC 24-83

A **MOTION** was made by B. Taetzsch and seconded by S. Wong to approve the minutes.  
Approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS

I, Treasurer, Blix Taetzsch, in keeping with New York State Education Law, certify that I have  
reviewed payroll #24 dated 11/27/24 and #25 dated 12/12/24 totaling \$126,013.91. 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 December 2024 bills in the amount of \$509,026.88 as listed in Abstracts #35, #36, and  
#37.

APPROVAL OF PROPOSED 2025 BUDGET DOC 24-84

Approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 2024 BUDGET AMENDMENTS DOC 24-85

Approved unanimously.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

L. Chabot made a recommendation for the 2025 Slate officers on behalf of the Nominating Committee. As President – Kathy Weinberg; Vice President – Darrell Long; Treasurer – L. Chabot. The position of secretary is vacant.

Approved unanimously.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

L. Tabor thanked TCPL board of trustees for their service to the community. Another life saved with Narcan, thank you Paul Piccolo and Mary McKeon! What we do here matters. Tabor asked the trustees to think of the positive; April Ribbon Cutting (RFID) and November Ribbon Cutting (NARCAN Vending Machine)!

Tabor thanked TC Legislature and Rich John and the Town of Ithaca for their constant support and the city of Ithaca, Lea Webb and Anna Kelles for the Bullet Aid and for showing up at our events. She also thanked the Friends of the Library funding and the Foundation for our blossoming relationship. Finally she thanked the outgoing board members.

LIAISON REPORTS

**County** – R. John informed the board the Legislature voted to change our bylaws to require fifteen trustees. We raised the issue that the Legislature does not have the authority with R. John, we also decided to send the message that we would be willing to compromise and move to twelve trustees and fifteen in 2026.

**Foundation** – Year-end giving is in full swing and going well.

Media coverage of the Narcan vending machine ribbon cutting resulted in an anonymous donor reaching out to us and making a significant gift to enable the Information Saves Lives project to continue beyond the grant funding. The coverage also brought us to the attention of a Pulitzer Prize winner author interested in speaking at TCPL- plans are in progress for a program with them in February.

At our annual meeting earlier this month, the Foundation shared our gratitude and appreciation for outgoing board member, Dominick Recckio, and voted to add new members Heather Furnas and Shaunessy Bordas. We also offer our thanks to Marli Stahler for her service as Trustees liaison- we've enjoyed having her on our team. We welcome any trustee interested in serving as liaison to the Foundation board and of course, you are always welcome to attend our meetings, which will be held on the second Monday (mostly) of the month from 12:00-1:30pm.

Our audit has already begun and we've completed all work on it that we can until the year is closed out.

A **MOTION** was made by B. Taetzsch and seconded by S. Wong to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter, grievances, a potential litigation matter and collective bargaining at 5:41 pm. Approved unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A **MOTION** was made by B. Taetzsch and seconded by C. Brewington to adjourn Executive Session at 6:25pm. Approved unanimously.

PUBLIC SESSION

A **MOTION** was made by B. Taetzsch and seconded by M. Stahler to authorize the director to work with current labor counsel at Bond, Schoeneck & King, PLCC to file a charge against the PSA with the PERB based on the conduct of the recent negotiations. Approved unanimously.

A **MOTION** was made by B. Taetzsch and seconded by Weinberg to move into Executive Session at 6:35pm. Approved unanimously.

A **MOTION** was made by Wong and seconded by Brewington to adjourn Executive Session at 7:15pm. Approved unanimously.

A **MOTION** was made by Weinberg and seconded by Taetzsch to adjourn the meeting at 7:16pm. Approved unanimously.

Minutes by Mary McKeon  
Administrative Manager

Endorsed by  
Secretary

