

Talcott Free Library Board Meeting

Monday, November 18, 2024

Members Present: A. Floto, L. Floto, D. Garlow, T. Garlow, R. Geddeis, G. Kovanda, A. Ragaller, Director M. Gove. Members of the Public: 32.

President Kovanda called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. All rose and pledged allegiance to the flag.

Public Comment: 1.

Secretary's Report: Geddeis moved, and D. Garlow seconded, to approve the minutes of the October meeting as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: A. Floto moved, and Kovanda seconded, to approve this report. Approval was unanimous. T. Garlow moved, and Ragaller seconded, to approve Ordinance 2024-03, Levying and Assessing Property Tax. Motion passed unanimously. The Ordinance was duly signed by President Kovanda and Secretary L. Floto, to be filed with the Winnebago County Clerk. The Truth in Taxation Certificate of Compliance and Annual Financial Statement were signed by President Kovanda. The Certified Estimate of Revenues by Source was signed by Treasurer T. Garlow. These documents will also be filed with the County.

Librarian's Report: L. Floto moved, and Ragaller seconded, to approve this report and the payment of current bills. Approval was unanimous. Director's Update: 1) Formulated and created the Levy ordinance. 2) Created the Truth in Taxation, Annual Financials, and Estimated Revenues by Source documents for required signatures and filing with the County Clerk. 3) Worked with e-rate consultant on 470s. 4) Worked with Fast Forward Libraries on strategic plan steps. 5) Prepared additional documents requested by the auditor. Completed audit coming soon. 6) Tried to identify any tax breaks to reduce the cost of fiber internet. There are none. 7) Contacted copier vendor to replace a broken part on the patron Toshiba printer/copier. 8) Roof lights were installed by the village for the holidays. Staff must turn them on/off until the new year. 9) Worked on multiple issues with the website. 10) Worked to locate documentation for 113 E. Main for the Chemtool class action suit. 11) Researched the procedure for a lottery for simultaneous petition filers and then performed the lottery. 12) Resolved a number of issues for staff related to book ordering and shipping. 13) Worked with vendor to learn how to set holiday closings on the new phone system and confirm that the daylight-saving change would be automatic. Attended four online classes including one on Pushing Back against Misinformation. Attended PrairieCat Delegates meeting in person.

Building and Grounds: No report.

Unfinished Business: No policies to review at this time.

New Business: Geddeis noted that in the past there have been no contested races for board seats. During this cycle, for the April 1, 2025 Consolidated Election, there is one 2-year term open, and there are three seats open for full 4-year terms. Two petitioners are running for the 2-year term, and five are running for the 4-year terms. The board secretary is the local election official designated in the State Election Code. Geddeis and Kovanda presented their findings on the lottery procedure defined in the Code along with the timetable for holding a new lottery to determine ballot positions. During the discussion, Geddeis pointed out that the board secretary alone must make the decision whether to go ahead with the lottery as conducted by the Director, or implement a new lottery within the time frame specified in the Code. The full board has no role in this decision and thus cannot hold a vote regarding the lottery. A. Floto suggested that a written policy could be discussed and adopted governing future elections.

Adjournment: A. Floto moved, and T. Garlow seconded, to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Submitted by: L. Floto, Secretary