

AVON FREE LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
April 28, 2025

Present: Dave Stafford, Jodi DeCarlo, Becky Stewart, Helen Zamboni, Cheryl MacPherson, Josh Tonra, Saragrace Friday, Kevin Patrick, Ryan Spall

Absent: Joe Cope

Guests: None

Called to order at 6:33 by Helen. Helen informed the board that Jan Cole has resigned from the board due to family issues. We will be looking to fill her seat as soon as possible.

Public Comment

None

Minutes of 31 March 2025

Motion for Approval by Jodi, seconded by Ryan, passed unanimously.

Friends' Group Report

Report given by Ryan, Basket raffle end of 2nd week of May-will be able to make commitment to the library for the Summer Reading Program. Annual Book Sale will be held during Corn Festival.

Treasurer's Report

Dave reviewed the financial report for prior month 2025 including the transactions, balance sheet & presented 6 vouchers. Motion for approval by Jodi, seconded by Josh, unanimously passed.

Director's Report

- Roof construction continues, but due to proximity of power line to workers, National Grid is stating that we will need to shut electricity off. Potential dates for this involve the contractor working on a Sunday to minimize effect on library hours. The board by consensus approved payment of staff for the hours they would otherwise have worked.
- Grace will be trained on Narcan.
- Trustees who are available generally during the day said they may be called to come in for coverage if there is only one staff person on duty at the time.

- Final Trivia Night proceeds not available. We think the winning team donated money back
- Safety upgrades needed for general construction to improve the stairwell inside the library. Paul Drozdiel got a quote for this work for just over \$14,000. Rules about what capital construction aid may be used for have been loosened, so this project would qualify, and if awarded, would cover over \$12,000 of the cost. Grace will submit our intent to apply.
- Updates on programs, training, workshops, circulations, WiFi sessions, and door counts.

Committee Reports

Facilities (Helen)

- Roof construction to continue

Finance (Dave)

- Work on tax return begun

Fundraising (Becky)

- Tiles from roof will be repurposed for fundraising

Personnel (Cheryl)

- Update on mid-year reviews

Policy (Joe)

- No updates

Old Business

- Covered in Director's Report

New Business

- Helen reported on the meeting the ad hoc committee held on April 16 to discuss the potential for seeking taxpayer approval to have all our government funding levied directly on taxpayers, as requested by the Town and Village. Ron Kirsop attended via Zoom. Ron suggested a different approach that using the school tax bill for this purpose, primarily because there are a number of properties subject to Avon Central School District taxes that are not located in the Town of Avon (these are in Rush, Caledonia, Lima and Livonia). Ron suggested instead what OWWL calls "Chapter 414", or seeking taxpayer approval to move all of our government funding to the Town and County tax bill. (Chapter 414 was the

legislation by which libraries may levy taxes to support their operations on any municipal tax bill). Besides eliminating “double taxation” on the properties not in the Town of Avon, presenting this to the taxpayers would also make clear what they are paying, directly or indirectly, today for the library. Most residents have no idea that the library receives “contributions” from the Town and the Village. This could be done as soon as the general election this coming November. OWWL stands ready to help on this. There are at least three other libraries in the OWWL system that are proceeding this year. The result would be a separate line item on the Town and County tax bill (much as the library tax now shows on the School tax bill, and the East Avon Fire District shows on the Town and County tax bill). Any increase we may need in the future would have to be approved by the taxpayers, much as was the case with the levy on the School tax bill. Jodi moved, seconded by Saragrace, that we pursue this approach on this November’s general election ballot. Motion unanimously passed. The first step is building a timeline based on when the proposition must be submitted to the Board of Elections. Helen will communicate the trustees’ decision to Dave Lefeber and Rob Hayes, and Grace will contact the Board of Elections (David DiPasquale) to get the basic information we need, then the ad hoc committee will meet.

Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn by Cheryl, seconded by Becky, unanimously passed

Next Meeting

19 May 2025