

Pawlet Public Library  
Monthly Meeting of Board of Trustees

MINUTES

December 5, 2023

Present: Trustees in attendance: Harley Cudney, Grace Larson, Kathryn Lawrence, Joni Lee, Heather Lund

Community Members: Sue LaPorte, Harry VanMeter, Joanne VanMeter, Roscoe Stark, Fred Stone, Molly Beverage, Gail Ebling, Rhonda Shtang, Lauren Herbert, Hannah Herbert, Lyndsi Barnes, Monica Kravitt, Martin Kravitt, Adelle Santwire

Call to Order – Harley calls to order at 5:30.

Public Comment:

- Gail Ebling: respects the power of executive session, believes the Board went in the right direction, the library was often inappropriately staffed, and thinks that town wide discussion is important.
- Fred Stone: has served on a lot of boards, the Select Board doesn't have power over the Library Board, elected officials should do what they think is right.
- Joanne VanMeter: retired librarian from Long Island, also Wells library, Vermont libraries don't hire official, professional librarians because they can't get them. Rural librarians do not have the education that professional librarians do. The candidates for a library certificate program in the state of Vermont might only take one course on a subject opposed to someone who obtains a MLS degree who would take a semester or more on a subject, example...Children's Literature or Cataloging. She also states that she thought Lyndsi had done a very good job with collection development. She would like to see the reasons for dismissal and a plan going forward to hire someone with professional qualifications and at least a certificate program.
- Martin Kravitt: reads the letter he sent to the Select Board. Wants to know who is paying for the Board's counsel, and believes the Select Board should be overseeing this process.
  - o Harley declines to say who is representing the library, but states that Martin should submit his letter to the Library Board (in which case it would be submitted as an addenda to the minutes).
- Gail Ebling: why is the Select Board part of this discussion? This is a Library Board matter.
  - o Harley mentions that the Select Board has said they will investigate.
- Sue requests to add a few minutes to time allotted for public comment, Martin agrees.
- Lyndsi states that she was dismissed 5 weeks after filing a harassment claim.
- Rhonda: the Board is accountable to the community, the paternalistic nature of the Board was revealed in the last meeting, behaviors and practices need to be updated and held. There is a retrograde attitude towards the acting director, the Board needs a 360 review to prove the Board takes this seriously and regain trust. The Select Board maintains the building and oversees salary so they should be involved.

- Lauren Herbert, member of the Mettowie School Board: I wish there was a way to mediate and end with a better understanding of this.

5:56 End of public comment.

Agenda: Kathryn moves to remove review of January 2 meeting draft agenda and enter Executive Session, Joni seconds, all agree.

5:57 Board enters Executive Session.

8:02 Joni motions to exit Executive Session, Heather seconds, all agree.

8:03 Heather motions to adjourn, Joni seconds, all agree. Meeting adjourned.

Dated December 18, 2023, Grace Larson, Secretary