

Plattekill Public Library  
Regular Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes  
September 12, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 6 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present were: Will Farrell, President; Luz Ledesma, Vice President; Valerie Smith, Trustee; Joe Egan, Trustee; Rose Guerrieri, Trustee; David Padilla, Trustee; George Hickey, Trustee; John Georghiou, Interim Director; Mayleen Torres-Rivera, Bookkeeper; Donna Ebanks, Acting Director/Secretary

**Financial Report**

**Items of note:**

- Legal fees are above purchase order amounts; discussion required
- Expenses remained within the expected monthly budgeted amounts
- Budget & Finance Committee needs to meet to discuss end of year monies remaining from 2019 budget
- Warrant of checks was circulated for signatures.

→ Motion to approve the August payroll was made by V. Smith and seconded by L. Ledesma. All were in favor and the motion passed.

→ Motion to approve the checks pending audit was made by V. Smith and seconded by L. Ledesma. This motion was left incomplete.

Discussion on motion to approve the checks:

W. Farrell requested a discussion of the Thomas, Drohan, Waxman, Petigrow & Mayle, LLP invoice, and the Nugent Haeussler invoice (previously approved), as he does not agree with their findings.

G. Hickey asked for an update of the action plan report he requested regarding the OSC audit. M. Torres-Rivera explained that a draft was in progress. G. Hickey said that he wants to see that report by the October Board meeting.

V. Smith asked if there have been any projected costs from the insurance company regarding the potential purchase of the Library building and land. D. Ebanks said not as yet.

**Public Comment: None**

**Correspondence: None**

**Secretary's Report:**

- Motion to accept the tabled June 13, 2019 Regular Board Meeting minutes was made by J. Egan and seconded by G. Hickey. All were in favor and the motion passed.
- Motion to accept the July 30, 2019 Special Board Meeting minutes was made by G. Hickey and seconded by R. Guerrieri. D. Padilla abstained; all others were in favor and the motion passed.

- Motion to accept the August 8, 2019 Regular Board Meeting minutes was made by G. Hickey and seconded by L. Ledesma. All were in favor and the motion passed.
- Motion to accept the August 20, 2019 Special Board Meeting minutes was made by L. Ledesma and seconded by R. Guerrieri. G. Hickey and D. Padilla abstained; all others were in favor and the motion passed.

**Acting Director's Report:**

Was read and discussed.

All Budget Vote & Election timeline items are on track with the exception of the Chairperson of the Election; D. Ebanks stated that she is actively seeking someone to serve in that role.

L. Ledesma asked for an update on the number of Trustee candidates, in addition to herself and R. Guerrieri and G. Hickey, for the upcoming vote. D. Ebanks noted that there were two additional petitions received making five the number of candidates who are running.

**Committee Reports:**

- The B&F Committee met on August 14, 2019 and set the budget for the upcoming vote.
- The Personnel Committee needs to set a date for Special Meeting to proceed with full Board interviews for a new Director. Discussion determined the dates for full Board interviews of the candidates.

- Motion to thank John Georghiou for his years of service was made by G. Hickey and seconded by L. Ledesma; all were in favor and the motion passed.

**Unfinished Business:**

- Motion to accept the Nugent & Haeussler 2018 audit report was made by L. Ledesma and seconded by V. Smith.

Discussion:

W. Farrell disagrees with Nugent & Haeussler's opinion on the CD investments made by him and J. Egan, as not being in compliance with the Library's policies. W. Farrell had questions regarding several of their opinions, and noted that J. Egan had sent inquiry correspondence to Nugent & Haeussler. Mr. Farrell said that as Board President, he is going to write up specific questions for Nugent & Haeussler to address, including his view of what happened, and ask that it be redone.

J. Georghiou stated that W. Farrell may write his letter to Nugent & Haeussler, identifying his specific disagreement and whatever the outcome, it can become part of the Board's official response to Nugent & Haeussler which is made available to the public.

- Motion that W. Farrell draft a letter of inquiry in response to certain aspects of the findings in the audit, this draft will be voted on by the Board at the October Board meeting was made by J. Egan and seconded by G. Hickey. On the vote;  
No: VS  
Yes: RG; DP; GH; JE; WF  
Abstentions: LL

L. Ledesma stated that all Board members received letters from Nugent & Haeussler, and all had ample opportunity to reply with their concerns.

- Motion to end the discussion was made by J. Egan and seconded by G. Hickey.

Update on purchase of property:

- W. Farrell spoke with Brooks & Brooks re survey of current Library property; they indicated they will do survey at a discounted rate.
- W. Farrell received via email a questionnaire from Brooks & Brooks about the property; he will share questionnaire with the Board.
- W. Farrell will send out the rate for performing the survey when he receives it.

Discussion on the \$2500 cap for the Town's attorney's fees:

Initial letter sent to the Town indicated that there would be a cap. The Town will not agree to a cap. The Town's attorney did agree to a discounted rate and billing the Library separately from the Town so that the Board would have clarity on how the money is being spent.

- Motion to remove the cap, in good faith that the Town's attorney will keep the costs as reasonable as possible was made by J. Egan and seconded by G. Hickey. D. Padilla abstained and all others were in favor and the motion passed.

Policy Committee must meet to review the By-laws sent to Board by R. Schofield.

L. Ledesma noted that there are policies available for review in the current Trustee handbook.

**New Business:**

W. Farrell ask that the Board Secretary purchase a new recording device to be used at Board meetings.

2020 Construction grant has been submitted. J. Georghiou noted that the Plattekill Library did not receive anything according to the recently released list of libraries receiving grants.

J. Georghiou requested that the last Engineer's report be forwarded to D. Ebanks.

- Motion to purchase a second recorder for up to \$400 was made by J. Egan and seconded by W. Farrell; all were in favor and the motion passed.

L. Ledesma asked for a discussion on Trustee absences and noted that the Trustee handbook indicates that the entire Board should be aware of the reason for the absences.

Padilla stated that this has never been done, and there have been other Trustees with extended absences.

The Board discussed that the discussion for the new by-laws should address Trustee absences and how they are presented to the whole Board.

- Motion to enter into Executive Session with the Director regarding a personnel matter and Oversight Committee discussion and this Committee's recommendations to be followed by a Board vote after the close of Executive Session was made by D. Padilla and seconded by L. Ledesma. On the vote:  
No: V. Smith  
Yes: W. Farrell; L. Ledesma; G. Hickey; J. Egan; D. Padilla; Guerrieri.  
The motion passed.

9:26 – The Board came out of Executive Session

- Motion to accept the committee's report and recommendation to remove W. Farrell from the Board was made by L. Ledesma and seconded by V. Smith. On the vote:  
Yes: L. Ledesma; V. Smith  
No: W. Farrell; J. Egan; G. Hickey  
Abstentions: D. Padilla; R. Guerrieri.  
Motion failed.
- Motion that Board of Trustees does not agree with the findings and recommendations of the Oversight Committee was made by W. Farrell and seconded by J Egan. On the vote:  
Yes: J.Egan; D. Padilla; G. Hickey; W. Farrell  
No: R. Guerrieri; L. Ledesma; V. Smith  
The motion passed.
- Motion to accept John Georgiou's resignation as of September 13, 2019 was made by J. Egan and D. Padilla. All were in favor and the motion passed.
- Motion that we remove Trustee J. Egan from the Board of the Plattekill Public Library for misconduct and neglect of duties and responsibilities was made by L. Ledesma and seconded by V. Smith. On the vote:  
Yes: L. Ledesma; V. Smith  
No: W. Farrell; J. Egan; G. Hickey; D. Padilla  
Abstentions: R. Guerrieri  
The motion failed.

W. Farrell noted that the Board had only approved \$3000 for the Oversight Committee's investigation, and now we are up to \$6,800. W. Farrell stated that when L. Ledesma approached the Board regarding hiring an attorney, only one attorney was mentioned but the Committee ended up hiring two attorneys and he sees this as misleading.

J. Georghiou noted that it was a firm that was recommended to the Committee by MHLS because this firm was versed in Library law and the Board has had to increase the amounts of purchase orders before.

→ Motion to accept the purchase orders as written by the Treasurer in her report was made by L. Ledesma and seconded by G. Hickey. On the vote:

Yes: G. Hickey; R. Guerrieri; L. Ledesma; V. Smith

No: W. Farrell; J. Egan; D. Padilla.

The motion passed.

→ Motion to approve the checks pending audit was made by G. Hickey and seconded by D. Padilla. On the vote:

Yes: L. Ledesma; V. Smith; G. Hickey; R. Guerrieri

No: J. Egan; W. Farrell; D. Padilla

The motion passed.

**Adjournment:**

→ Motion to adjourn at 9:40pm was made by W. Farrell and seconded by R. Guerrieri. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by:  
Donna Ebanks  
Secretary