

**Fair Haven Free Library
Monthly Board Meeting
Wednesday, October 18, 2023**

Present: Judy Gevry, Ron Stack, Ceil Hunt, Thom Brusco and Carol Scott

Judy called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

Minutes of the September 20, 2023, meeting were reviewed. Ron moved to accept the minutes as written. Thom seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

The Treasurer's Report was reviewed. We received the town check on September 30, 2023. The current balance in our checking account as of September 30, 2023 is \$58,460.04. Thom moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Ron seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Ron reported that the sprinkler heads we sent in are currently being tested in Minnesota. We should hear shortly on the disposition of those tests to see what in our sprinkler system may need to be replaced.

Ron has also been busy repairing the damages from the leak. The drywall has been replaced and painted. The paint left over from Jim Rooker's last painting is almost gone.

Librarian's Report

- Eleven Book Club members met to discuss Storm in the Land of Rain on September 11th in the library.
- Automation project continues. Our totals at the end of September were 1335 patrons and 16,803 books entered in the system. In September we added 5 patrons and updated 6. We also added 28 items to the system and discarded 170. Our shelves are full and so items that have not been taken out in a long time are being put in the book sale bins.
- Our take and make for September was leaves to decorate. We distributed 36 of them. These items, which are grant funded, are extremely popular.
- David, a new resident in Fair Haven asked to put the tiny house he made on display in the library. Patrons are really enjoying looking at it.
- Mary Kay is working on the follow-up paperwork for our \$500 Winnie Bell Learned Grant.
- We have been weeding in large print and adult fiction.
- Genealogy with Dani on Friday September 15th had 13 attendees. September 22nd 8 attended and September 29th 9 attended.
- The town auditors met here on Monday October 16th in our meeting room from 5:30-6:45. 3 people attended.
- Unfortunately, our speaker for the Alfred Hitchcock program had to cancel due to an unexpected medical issue. We hope to reschedule in the future.
- I will be attending a meeting next Wednesday in Rutland on the future of the fiber connect program for Vermont libraries. This may impact our budget as we wait to hear the fate of the fiber project.
- The window for state reports is November 1st to December 31st this year, but Carol reported that it is already open, and she is going to try and get an early start on the final report.

Budget

The board reviewed spending for the past year and began the budgeting process. The State of Vermont has increased the minimum wage once again. The Board has to adjust salaries, as the law takes effect on January 1st, and current salaries for several employees are below the minimum allowed.

We learned that the raises allotted employees did not take place in July. In an effort to both reimburse employees and meet the new minimum wage law, the board discussed salaries at length.

Thom moved that the board adjust salaries effective immediately in keeping with upcoming minimum wage laws. Ron seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Very few line-item budget items were increased. Those items included salaries, Worker's Comp. insurance, and potentially the cost of fiber connectivity. We hope to finalize the budget at our next meeting when we know more about the sprinkler project, the fate of the fiber project and if we will need to cover those costs, and get a final tally on the salaries due to the change in minimum wage laws.

Motion to adjourn was made by Ron at 7:58 and seconded by Thom.

Our next meeting is November 15th. Carol reminded us that the report and budget for the library is due on November 17th.

Respectfully submitted,

Ceil Hunt