

SPECIAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

March 13, 2014

6:45 PM

MINUTES

Na'im Tyson, who presided, called the meeting to order at 6:55 pm.

Present were: Dawn Cancellieri, Marcia Dupree, Julie Mills Worthey and David Ockene

Also present: Gary Newman, CSEA Unit President; Libby Post, Library Consultant; Robert Schofield, Attorney(via phone) Tamara Stewart, Library Patron, Carolyn Karwoski, Library Director and Mary Harper, Administrative Assistant

Robert Schofield explained the library budget vote process and the resolutions and legal notices needed to begin. He also discussed the tax cap for the budget and the process of transferring funds to the library after the budget vote has passed.

The possibility of expanding the number of trustees who will be on the ballot for elections was discussed. As well as whether the Division of Library Development would have to be contacted in order to increase the number for this election.

Legal notices must be published in the paper at least 42 days before the election and must appear at least four times.

David Ockene asked if it were problematic if you have a higher number of trustees and don't have enough candidates. Mr. Schofield said yes, you may have a lot of write ins. Libby Post said increasing the number of candidates means recruiting more people.

Mr. Schofield asked if there were any vacancies on the board right now. Na'im Tyson said in theory no. You can have 5 to 15 trustees.

Libby Post said that there are five board members; Na'im Tyson's term is carried over. Dawn Cancellieri and David Ockene are going to run for election. Julie Mills Worthey and Marcia Dupree will not.

She said the prospect of recruiting four good new members is problematic at this time. Carolyn Karwoski said that the stagger in terms was done so we could get up to seven.

Mr. Schofield said that compensation would have to be set for the election inspectors. At least four will be needed.

The Clerk of the Election can be designated as the chairperson.

Libby Post asked if staff can be election inspectors. Mr. Schofield said that this was a very dangerous thing to do. The rule is that library resources cannot be used and this could be a problem.

The nominating petitions must have twenty-five signatures that are obtained in the presence of a qualified voter.

Julie Mills Worthey asked if a petition could be challenged if someone was carrying a petition for more than one person. Mr. Schofield said that this is not a political election and one candidate can witness a petition for another. One witness should not be carrying more than four petitions.

David Ockene asked if a candidate can nominate themselves. Mr. Schofield said yes.

The Board of Trustees passed the tax cap resolution.

RESOLUTION

At a duly called meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Mount Vernon Public Library, upon a motion made by Julie Mills Worthey, and seconded by David Ockene, it was

RESOLVED that, pursuant to General Municipal Law § 3-c(5), the Board of Trustees of the Mount Vernon Public Library overrides, for the purpose of the Mount Vernon Public Library 2014-2015 Fiscal Year budget, the tax levy limit imposed by Municipal Law §3-c(3).

Dated: March 13, 2014

Marcie Dupree
Secretary

Vote: 5 In Favor
0 Opposed
0 Abstentions

Carolyn Karwoski said that the 4.35 million dollars would give the library the ability to hire some people and improve cyber corner and do programming. She said she is looking for grants and developing plans for an early learning center. More staff training can be done.

Julie Mills Worthey asked what the budget would do with the necessity to create a capital fund.

Carolyn Karwoski said that she wanted 4.7 million, but doesn't think we can do this. She said that she wanted to put \$250,000 in capital. Mrs. Mills Worthey asked if she were saying there couldn't be a capital fund.

Carolyn Karwoski said that we may not be able to call it a capital fund. The Division of Library Development is assuming that is a bonded fund.

Julie Mills Worthey asked how much of the \$250,000 was designated for repairs in 2014.

Carolyn Karwoski said that a new elevator was about \$104,000 and the children's room bathroom is \$50,000. She said that the bathrooms in all areas need to be upgraded.

Mrs. Karwoski said that they were at the top of the list. She said that the elevator needs to be tied in with the smoke alarms. The plumbing line for the children's room bathroom needs to be elevated. There is a suggestion to move the children's room bathroom to the foyer. She believes plumbing lines are there. The architect and contractor suggested this.

The additional smoke alarms are around \$14,000.

Carolyn Karwoski said that there are options under construction grants. She said we would apply through WLS and could get 75% of the cost covered. Because we have a high poverty rate, we may be able to get 75%. She said it all hinges on WLS.

Julie Mills Worthey asked if a budget of 4.35 million reduced that.

Carolyn Karwoski said it would reduce the operating budget to 4.1 million. The city is only funding the library through September.

Libby Post said if the budget passes, in July the city would have to give half of the year to the library. The law in New York State makes it clear that the library board of trustees is the final arbiter of spending. The library is a separate corporation. The city does not have any control over what gets paid and when it gets paid.

Carolyn Karwoski said that we need to manage the budget for four months in 2014. The library had a surplus, but the city took half.

Julie Mills Worthey said that the issue of the city's oversight of the funding was done in agreement with previous boards due to an oversight. The agreement at the time was done for justifiable reasons.

David Ockene asked if the funding would effect the hours. Carolyn Karwoski said no.

Carolyn Karwoski said that she had a conversation with the Division of Library Development about the maintenance of effort waiver and the central library status. She said it does not seem they are ready to make a decision.

Julie Mills Worthey said she wanted to see if WLS supported our maintenance of effort waiver or if they took a mutual opinion.

Na'im Tyson said that it is not an opinion, but an affidavit of information. Mrs. Mills Worthey said the affidavit of support is merely a statement.

Libby Post said she has a feeling if the vote is successful this is a moot point.

Ms. Post said that we don't have time for a revote. If we went for the revote that is after the time the comptroller needs to get the taxes. If there is a revote, we would not be able to levy for the money until January.

Libby Post said that we are looking at trying to get the budget at a reasonable number where we are not looking at over a \$300.00 tax.

Carolyn Karwoski said that WLS will not sell cards to our patrons.

Gary Newman said that WLS will sell cards to anyone who does not live in Westchester County.

Julie Mills Worthey asked if \$300 dollars represents the additional amount taxpayers will pay considering the city will reduce the amount in their budget.

If this is the case, why aren't we asking for five million?
Tamara Stewart said because people will not pay that.

Libby Post said that the city's tax bill will not go down immediately.

Julie Mills Worthey said that she hears the rationale for the number. For the Mount Vernon Public Library to be a world class library it is not getting us there. She said she thought there was a benefit in asking for more now so we don't have to keep asking.

Libby Post said that libraries that are districts go out every year to ask for more. She said she thinks below \$300 would be an easier sell.

Tamara Stewart said if there was at least time to vote twice, she would say go with the low number. If only once she would say go with a number that works.

Ms. Stewart said she does not see how the Mayor could make good on the promise of additional funds if the budget does not pass.

Na'im Tyson said that the highest city funding over the last ten years was 4.2 million dollars.
Libby Post said we need to balance the funding on what we are going to promise people.

Carolyn Karwoski said that we can do Sunday hours and have more staff.

Libby Post asked could the selling point be not asking for any more than the city ever gave us.

The Board amended the budget to 4.35 million, upon a motion by Julie Mills Worthey, seconded by Dawn Cancellieri. The motion passed 3 to 2

Julie Mills Worthey asked what was it going to cost us annually to run the election.
Carolyn Karwoski said that taking out the cost of the consultant will make a huge difference
It will be figured out.

Libby Post said that the election is going to be held at the library. Paper ballots will be used.

Request for Vote on New Budget Date

Board of Trustees,

Given the need for the Board of Trustees to vote on the budget date,

Whereas the suggested budget date of May 6, 2014 is necessary to accommodate an injured library director ,
therefore be it

Resolved, that the Board of Trustees vote on accepting the new suggested budget date on May 6, 2014/

Submitted by, Dawn Cancellieri

David Ockene

Upon a motion by David Ockene, seconded by Julie Mills Worthey, the board approved the date of May 6, 2014 from 7 am to 9 pm for the budget and trustee vote.

The School District Election Clerk, Alice Patterson is going to train Library Principal Clerk, Debra Harris to run the election.

Libby Post said that the candidate petitions are due on April 7, 2014

We have to get two more qualified people to run.

The trustee name and address must be the same as on the voter registration.

The Board approved the resolution for the budget and trustee vote.

MOUNT VERNON PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

At a duly called meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Albany Public Library, upon a motion made by Julie Mills Worthey, and seconded by Marcia Dupree the following resolution was considered

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees is authorized by the Education Law to call a special district meeting of the Mount Vernon City School District to ask the voters to vote on a tax levy to support the operating budget of the Library and the election of Trustees, and

WHEREAS, by charter action adopted June 18, 2013, the Regents of the University of the State of New York directed the Mount Vernon Public Library to, in 2014, elect four trustees, one for a one year partial term, and three for a four year partial term, and

WHEREAS, although the Library can have its election conducted by the Mount Vernon City School District at its Annual Meeting, it is also authorized by the Education Law to conduct its own elections, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees finds that it is necessary and desirable to conduct a special district meeting of the voters of the Mount Vernon City School District for the purpose of voting on a tax levy to support the operating budget of the Library and the election of Trustees.

NOW therefore be it

RESOLVED that, pursuant to Section 260 of Education Law the Board of Trustees calls a special district meeting of the Mount Vernon City School District to be held on May 6, 2014 from the hours of 7 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., for the purpose of submitting to the voters of said District a proposed tax levy to support the operating budget of the Mount Vernon Public Library, and it is further

RESOLVED that, pursuant to Section 260 of the Education Law, the special district meeting shall be established, noticed, and conducted in the same manner and to the same extent as such a meeting would be conducted by the Board of Education, except that the Board of Trustees shall make all determinations and take all action in respect thereto otherwise required of the Board of Education, and except that the meeting shall not be held in the election districts established by the Board of

Education, but shall be held at the Mount Vernon Public Library located at 28 South 1st Avenue, Mount Vernon, New York, and it is further

RESOLVED that, the Board of Trustees hereby authorizes the Library to hire _____ as a qualified consultant to assist the Library with the establishment, notice, and conduct of the special district meeting at a cost not to exceed \$ 2,000 , and it is further

RESOLVED that, the Board of Trustees authorizes the Executive Director to incur costs necessary to conduct the election, including but not limited to printing, postage, publication fees, inspector fees, technician fees, supplies, and professional services which shall be paid by the Library upon presentation to the Board of Trustees of authenticated vouchers in accordance with its usual and customary payment procedures, and it is further

RESOLVED that, the Library Director, in conjunction with the consultant and counsel shall cause the legal notice required under the Education Law to be published in the Journal News newspaper and the Mount Vernon Rising newspaper, and it is further

RESOLVED that, pursuant to Sections 259 and 260 of the Education Law, the Board of Trustees of the Mount Vernon Public Library will submit the following question to the voters of the Mount Vernon City School District at the special district meeting to be held on May 6, 2014:

Shall the sum of \$4.35 million be raised by annual levy of a tax upon the taxable real property within the Mount Vernon City School District for the purpose of funding the operating budget of the Mount Vernon Public Library?

YES 3 NO 2

and it is further

RESOLVED that Sections 260 of the Education Law and the June 18, 2103 charter action of the Regents of the University of the State of New York, the Board of Trustees of the Mount Vernon Public Library will submit the election of person to serve as Trustees of the Library or one of three partial four year-terms or one of one partial one-year terms, elected at large, to voters of the Mount Vernon City School District at the special district meeting to be held on May 6, 2014.

Dated: March 13, 2014

Marcia Dupree
Secretary

Vote: 5 In Favor
 Opposed
 Abstentions

Dr. Tyson inquired about the maintenance supply ordering.

Carolyn Karwoski said that we have been working on it, but Jesse Van Lew has been out.

Na'im Tyson said to make sure that Juan Jaramillo has called every vendor and that Juan Jaramillo work with Mary Harper to send a letter to each vendor.

Dr. Tyson said that Juan Jaramillo has to negotiate the frequency of the procedure with Jesse Van Lew.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm Upon a motion by Julie Mills Worthey, seconded by Marcia Dupree..

Respectfully

Carolyn Karwowski

Secretary