

Library Board of Directors  
Somers Public Library  
November 1, 2021

Members present: Lisa Gladysz, Gene Grayson, Mike Gruber, Dave Marti, Andy Phillips, Sharon Renzoni, Shirley Warner  
Absent: Bonnie Mazzoli, Bob Socha  
Also present: Marie Stromwall, Interim Library Director

Chairperson Andy Phillips called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm.

Minutes from the October 4, 2021 meeting were presented and reviewed. S. Warner moved to approve the minutes; seconded by S. Renzoni. Approved.

*First Audience to Citizens:* None

*Correspondence:* None

*Treasurer's Report:*

The Treasurer's Report was distributed by G. Grayson. He noted that the investments have done well and that he and Lisa Gladysz have completed the necessary paperwork to remove Sharon Renzoni from the Schwab investment account. He also noted that he, Lisa and Sharon will go to People's United Bank on November 5<sup>th</sup> to do the same for the checking account. The treasurer's report will be filed for audit.

*Financial Business:*

Invoices were presented for authorization. S. Renzoni moved to approve the invoices presented for payment; seconded, D. Marti. Approved.

The October 2021 budget to actual report was presented by M. Stromwall. She noted that the income now represents the October monthly income rather than year-to-date. She also noted that a small Neelan distribution was received in October, with another on the 1<sup>st</sup> of November that will appear on next month's report. The report will be filed for audit.

*Committee Reports:*

*Friends of the Library Liaison* – B. Mazzoli submitted a note via email to A. Phillips who reported to the Board that the fall book sale was similar to the previous sale in terms of revenue. The sale received many positive reviews by patrons. M. Stromwall added that it was their most successful Friday ever and that the Friends are moving forward with the Santa celebration on December 4<sup>th</sup>.

*Old Business:*

Library Director Search – A. Phillips informed the Board that Joanne Nichting accepted the Library Director position and has given notice to her current employer. Her start date at the Somers Library is November 29, 2021.

*New Business*

2022 Calendar – M. Stromwall presented the proposed Board meeting dates for calendar year 2022, along with the holiday schedule and potential dates for altered library hours. L. Gladysz made a motion to accept the Board meeting and holiday schedules, with modified hours on the following Saturdays: July 2 (10am – 1pm); September 3 (10am – 1pm); December 24 (closed); December 31 (10am – 1pm). Seconded by M. Gruber. Motion passed.

Staff Holiday Appreciation – The Board would like to recognize the library employees and show its appreciation for their hard work during the year. D. Marti made a motion to increase the gift amount compared with last year, to recognize the staff's continued efforts and acknowledge the tough inflationary times we find ourselves in today. He also moved to distribute the gifts the Monday before Thanksgiving. S. Renzoni seconded. Motion passed.

Mileage Reimbursement Rate – M. Stromwall brought to the Board's attention the fact that the mileage reimbursement rate appears outdated at \$0.54 per mile compared with the current IRS mileage rate of \$0.56 per mile. Discussion ensued as to who actually pays for staff business mileage – the Board or the Town. M. Stromwall will follow up with the town finance department and report back to the Board.

Awe Computer Quote – M. Stromwall presented a quote from Awe Learning for 2 new early literacy stations for the children's room. The chosen configuration includes a keyboard and mouse, along with programs suitable up to approximately age 10. Inclusive of a support stand, extended warranty, software upgrades, and shipping, the total quote is \$7,836.00. These stations would replace the broken, outdated units acquired in 2010. D. Marti made a motion to purchase the 2 units using Library Board funds, and to include the extended warranty if it is necessary to get the software upgrades. S. Warner seconded. Motion passed. S. Renzoni made a motion to transfer \$8,000 from the Schwab account to the checking account to cover the cost of the literacy stations. G. Grayson seconded. Motion passed.

*Director's Report:*

M. Stromwall elaborated on her written report, which outlined all the activities, maintenance, and programs during the month of October, including numbers of patron visits and homebound deliveries. She also reported that Brooke Morrill resigned from his position as Teen Librarian as he has accepted a full-time position at another library. His last day in Somers is November 5<sup>th</sup>. The report was accepted as presented.

*Second Audience to Citizens: None*

Meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm. Next meeting will be December 6, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lisa Gladysz

MINUTES NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING