

Baldwinsville Public Library
Board of Trustees
Minutes of Meeting – February 12, 2025

Present: Craig Maguire, President; Liz Bates, Pam Fallesen, Mary Schmutz, Frank Valchine, MaryAnne Williams, Nancy Howe, Library Director; John Klimachefsky, Donation Fund Treasurer; Dania Souid, Young Adult Services Librarian; Diane Natale, Secretary.

Excused: Mary Lou Carpinella

Visitor: Cindy Falise, President, Friends of the Library

Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm by Diane Natale, Secretary

- I. **Conflict of Interest.** None
- II. **Disposition of minutes of January 5, 2024.** Motion to accept minutes by MaryAnne Williams. Second by Mary Schmutz. Carried.

III. **Donation Treasurer's Report:** New donations received:

1. Nancy and Robert Burt \$100.00 (unrestricted)
2. Friends of B'ville Public Library \$315.59 (unrestricted)
3. Overeater's Anonymous \$120.00 (unrestricted)

New donations received total \$535.59. Withdrawals: \$50 to Suzanne McCarthy for reimbursement of gift certificate. Interest and Dividends on Empower CDs total \$431.77.

Donation Fund balance as of February 1, 2025, is

Seneca Checking Account	\$14,058.02
Empower Savings Account	\$ 27.65
Empower 9 mo. CD Account	\$54,444.87
Empower 15 mo. CD Account	<u>\$54,277.19</u>

Total = \$122,807.73

Motion to accept Donation Treasurer's report by Mary Schmutz.
 Second by MaryAnne Williams. Carried.

- IV. **Donation Fund Requests:** No requests made for January 2025.
- V. **Cycle 7 Report:** Public Funds. Reviewed, no questions. Motion to

- accept by Mary Schmutz, second by MaryAnne Williams. Carried.
- VI. **Library Bills: Public Funds.** Warrants totaling \$77, 542.91 reviewed, no questions. Motion to pay bills by Mary Schmutz, second by Mary Anne Williams. Carried.
- VII. **Public Comments.** Cindy Falise, President of Friends of the B'ville Public Library, submitted a calendar of events for the entire 2025 year. Cindy submitted a grant for \$500 to fund a historic walk around Baldwinsville. Other things discussed to help raise funds for the library: There is a new, larger boat coming to the Erie Canal that will hold 45 people that can be reserved. They will provide all the food. No food can be brought onto the boat. There is a "mini" golf course used in the Oswego Library. Doing that here would be too costly for Friends. The Mah Jongg tournament has been rescheduled to October 26, 2025.
- VIII. **Old Business.**
- A. **Monthly Energy Use Review.** Trending as usual.
 - B. **Nate Secord: Green Energy Team.** Nate and his team have done 2 LED upgrades. The use of LED lighting saves us 90% from using incandescent lighting. The total cost was \$15,000.00 instead of \$12,000.00.
 - C. **Basement Update.** Nancy Howe talked with Linda Cook, library attorney. Beginning in June 2025, we will not charge rent for usage of space in the basement, therefore we are not liable if something happens and there is property damage. Use of the space will be at each organization's own risk. Current organizations are grandfathered in as we will not be allowing anyone else to use the basement.
 - D. **Other.** Craig Maguire reiterated that the cooling tower is 27 years old. Joe DeBarbieri, School Superintendent, told the past library director, Margaret Van Patten, that the cooling tower was in the school's upcoming proposed budget. The library building is owned by the school district and capital improvements are the school's responsibility. Maintenance of the building is taken care of by the library. Craig is currently reaching out to both Rick Foederer (Chief Operations Officer) and Dr. DeBarbieri to see where we stand with getting a replacement tower in 2025. Because it can take 14-16 weeks to get a new tower, this issue needs to be addressed soon.

IX. New Business

A. Trustee Election and Budget Vote. The 2025/26 budget vote & trustee election will be Thursday April 24, 2025. Liz Bates, who is filling Linda Clarkson's term, will be running for the remaining two years. Mary Schmutz will run for another 5-year term. Instead of using voting machines, it was voted that we will use ballot boxes like the school district does for their budget vote to save money for the library. Motion to accept the use the ballot boxes by Pam Fallesen, second by Frank Valchine, Carried.

B. Ruth Connell Award. Ruth was the first library director of the Baldwinsville Public Library. This award is in honor of her and is given yearly to an employee who is nominated by the staff. This year we will need to add another plaque as the first plaque is filled.

C. Other.

- “Aunt Flow”, is now in the woman's bathroom across from the Community Room. It dispenses female products for free.
- Nancy is looking into bids for a new landscaper for the library.
- The February book sale made \$3755.75.
- Pam Fallesen reported that on March 14, 2025 there will be someone from the Safe Haven Holocaust Museum (Oswego, NY) lecturing at the Travelers' Club monthly meeting. Ruth Gruber, journalist and humanitarian brought over 1000 refugees, mostly Jewish, during WWII war and had them housed in Quonset huts at Fort Ontario in Oswego, NY. Oswego was the only city in the United States to do this. After the war she fought to get them citizenship so they could continue to live in the United States. Her book, *Haven: The Dramatic Story of 1000 WWII Refugees and How They Came to America* tells her story.
- Mary Crego sent the board a lovely thank you note for her Xmas gift certificate.

X. Director's Report.

- Nancy Howe was appointed the OCPL Member Council Chair for 2025.
- Tom Walters, OCPL Communications Director and Nicole La Fiandra of Channel 3 filmed a segment about BPL's Knitting

and Quilting with Friends group for their February 1st broadcast of **More Than Just Books**. This program airs twice a month on Saturday mornings at 6 am and 9 am on Channel 3. This 3-5 minute segment features a program/service offered at libraries throughout Onondaga County. Librarian Sharon Burton and Linda DeLorm were interviewed.

The Board went into Executive Session to discuss 2025-26 staff salaries at 8 pm They came out at 8:36 pm.

- XI. **Adjournment.** Motion to adjourn at 8:38 p.m. by Pam Fallesen, second by Mary Anne Williams. Carried.

Respectively submitted,

Diane Natale, Secretary