

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

Present: Craig Maguire, President; Liz Bates, Pam Fallesen, Mary Schmutz, Frank Valchine, Mary Anne 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 8, 2025.** Motion to accept minutes by Mary Anne Williams. Second by Mary Schmutz. Carried.
- III. **Donation Treasurer's Report:** New donations received:
 1. Nancy and Robert Burt \$100.00
 2. Friends of B'ville Public Library \$315.59
 3. Overeater's Anonymous \$120.00
 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 Mary Anne Williams. Carried.
- IV. **Library Bills: Public Funds.** No questions on Library bills. Motion to pay bills by Mary Schmutz, second by Mary Anne Williams. Carried.

V. **Public Comments.** Cindy Falise, President of Friends of the B'ville Public Library gave us a calendar of events that Friends will do 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 Jong tournament has been rescheduled to October 26, 2025.

VI. **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 saving the library over \$200,000.00 for new lighting.
- C. **Basement Use Update.** Nancy Howe talked with Linda Cook, Library Attorney. Since we are not charging rent for usage of the basement, we are not liable if something happens. However, we will accept donations. Any renters use the space at their own risk. These renters are grandfathered in as we will not be accepting anyone else to use the basement for storage.
- D. **Other.** Craig Maguire reiterated that the cooling water tower is 27 years old and he talked with Rick Foederer, Chief Operations Officer for the B'ville school District. The Superintendent told the past Library Director, Margaret Van Patten, who then told our new Library Director, Nancy Howe, that the cooling tower was in the school's budget. The library building is owned by the school district and capital improvements are the school's business. Maintenance of the building is taken care of by the library. It takes 14-16 weeks lead time for a cooling tower which means it could be an issue in April, 2025.

VII. **New Business**

- A. **Trustee Election and Budget Vote.** The 2025/26 budget vote & trustee election will be Thursday April 24, 2025. Liz Bates, who filled Linda Clarkson's term, will be running for trustee again. 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 use the ballot boxes by Pam Fallesen, second by Frank Valchine, Carried.

B. Ruth Connell Award. Ruth was one of the first librarians at 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 community bathroom. It dispenses female products for free. Nancy is looking into bids for a new landscaper for the library. At the February book sale, the library made \$3755.75. Pam Fallesen told us that on March 14, 2025 there will be someone coming from the Traveler’s Club to talk about the **Safe Haven** Holocaust Museum in Oswego, NY. Ruth Gruber, journalist and humanitarian brought over 1000 refugees, mostly Jewish, during the 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 a lovely thank you note for her Xmas gift certificate.

VIII. 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 our **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 salaries. I returned at 8:36 p.m.

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

Respectively submitted,

Diane Natale, Secretary