

STOUGHTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16, @ 6:30 P.M.
HYBRID MEETING IN CARNEGIE ROOM
& VIA ZOOM



PRESENT: Ken Axe; Lora Klitzke, President; Teri LeSage; Phil Caravello, City Council Representative; Sharon Meilahn Bartlett (virtual), Vice-President; Erin Meinholz; Trista Richards; Katie Roberts (virtual); Siri Vienneau, Student Trustee
ABSENT: Mande Shecterle, Stoughton Area School District Representative
ALSO PRESENT: Jim Ramsey, Library Director; Amanda Bosky, Adult Services Librarian; NicoleMarie Hall, Assistant Finance Director, City of Stoughton; Sybil Pressprich, Vice-President of the Friends of the Stoughton Public Library

- I. CALL TO ORDER. 6:33 P.M. by President Lora Klitzke
- II. REVIEW OF AGENDA & CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH OPEN MEETINGS LAW. Klitzke moved item IX. Board In-service to immediately follow item IV. Friends of the Library Report.
[Caravello arrived at 6:36 PM]
- III. CONSENT AGENDA. Ramsey presented and explained the reason that the WAGES line (50120) appears overspent on the revenue & expenditure report for fund 215.
Motion to approve: Meinholz. Second: Axe. Vote: 8-0.
- IV. FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY REPORT. Pressprich presented. Discussed the Friends' mini-golf fundraiser on 3/16, the upcoming Pie Place fundraiser, the Friends presence at the Chamber Expo, support for the Summer Reading Kick-off at Troll Beach, and support for an inclusion project for parents with children with disabilities led by Friends Board member Alley McGuane.
- V. BOARD IN-SERVICE: Presentation on 2024 Financials from Assistant Finance Director Hall. Hall reviewed 2024 financial statements for the library's fund 215 and 217. Explained that the library added \$56,317.69 to the fund balance for fund 215 in 2014. Also discussed former Director Ehlinger's recommendation that expenses for Computers & Peripherals and Furniture & Fixtures be moved back to the operating budget from the CIP budget. Ehlinger also recommended using 20% of the fund 215 fund balance for operating expenses in the 2026 operating budget.
[Hall left at 6:55 PM]
- VI. RECOGNITION OPPORTUNITIES: Ramsey presented gift certificates for Ink Cap Books to the three departing Board members—Ken Axe, Teri LeSage, and Erin Meinholz—as a token of appreciation for the their service to the Library.
- VII. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: None
- VIII. REVIEW/DISCUSSION OF CORRESPONDENCE: Ramsey shared thank you notes from Sandhill kindergarteners as well as a National Library Week proclamation from Mayor Tim Swadley.
- IX. EDUCATION UPDATES: Meilahn Bartlett discussed an article about the Madison Public Library and the potential impact of cuts at the federal level to IMLS. Ramsey offered that the website mentioned in that article was also included in his Director's Report. He briefly described the situation with the proposed elimination of IMLS and

- its potential impact on Wisconsin Libraries. Roberts shared information about proposed cuts to Head Start that could potentially impact Wisconsin students.
- X. DIRECTOR'S REPORT.
- A. Statistics for February 2025. Ramsey presented.
 - B. Administration report. Ramsey reported that the HVAC system replacement is proceeding according to schedule. Also reported that the Library is in the initial stages of exploring the possibility of adding solar panels to the roof of the library building.
- XI. COMMITTEE REPORTS.
- A. Finance: did not meet.
 - B. Personnel: did not meet.
 - C. Planning: did not meet.
 - D. Policies: did not meet.
- XII. OLD BUSINESS.
- A. Report from ad hoc Trustee Recruitment Committee with Recommendations for Appointment of New Trustees. Committee member Trista Richards shared that the committee is formally recommending three individuals to serve on the Library Board of Trustees: Jean Ligocki, Brandon Maly, and Christine Melland. They will be appointed by the mayor at the next City Council meeting on 4/22/25. Meinholz asked about the interview process and whether the recommendation was unanimous. Axe replied that it was and that all applicants were extremely well-qualified, making the committee's decision a difficult one.
[Caravello left at 7:15 PM]
Motion to approve the committee's recommendation and forward it to the mayor:
Axe. Second: Richards. Vote: 7-0.
 - B. Progress report from ad hoc Student Trustee Recruitment Committee. Ramsey reported that there are two applicants and that the committee is in the process of setting up interviews with the candidates. The committee will have a recommendation for a new student trustee at the next meeting on May 21.
- XIII. NEW BUSINESS.
- A. Review of 2025 Capital Improvement Projects and Discussion of 2026 Projects. Ramsey summarized the 2025 CIP, including the major HVAC system replacement and scheduled masonry repair to the building's exterior. Reminded the Board that former Finance Director Ehlinger had recommended moving the expenditures for Computers & Peripherals and Furniture & Fixtures back to the operating budget in 2026. Also reviewed potential projects for 2026, including lower-level carpet replacement and replacement of the security camera system. Meilahn Bartlett asked about the use of the library's outdoor program space. Ramsey replied that it will be getting more use as the weather warms and that the library is planning an outdoor story time there for Syttende Mai.
- XIV. PENDING AGENDA ITEMS.
- A. Reminder for standing committees to review, and possibly report on, their progress toward the annual Board Goals throughout the year.
 - B. Discussion of additional funding sources for library programming and operations.
 - C. Discussion of General Fund balance.

- D. Review of goals related to diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility in 2023-2026 Strategic Plan
- XV. ADJOURNMENT. *Motion to adjourn at 7:33 P.M.:* Meinholz. *Second:* Axe. *Vote:* 7-0.

Minutes taken by Jim Ramsey.