

**Daniel Pierce Library
Board of Trustees Meeting**

January 17, 2024

A meeting of the Trustees of the Daniel Pierce Library was called to order at 7:00pm with President Mari Martin presiding. Other Trustees present were Mike Schiffer, Bob Eddings, Patricia Doogan, Bill Richardson, Kate Kelly, Cathy Coombe, Leanore Egan, and Dave Schneyer. Also present was Mikki Green, acting Director, Cathy Russo, Bookkeeper, and new Director, Elizabeth Wolpert.

Secretary's Report: The minutes of the December 13, 2023, meeting were reviewed and approved as presented.

Public Comments: None

Correspondence: Leanore Egan read the following correspondence:

- letter from the Goldstein and Welch families, who made a holiday donation.
- A note from Francine Vidal who also made a donation.
- A thank you note from Mikki for the Christmas gift and support from Board of Trustees.
- Notes from Rhea, Pat Cummins, Nicole Richardson, Dierdre McHugh, Cathy and Chris Russo, thanking the BOT for the Christmas gift.

Financial Reports: The Board reviewed the financial statements for December and Cathy Russo addressed questions. She noted that the 2024 tax levy had been deposited to the Catskill Hudson Bank money market fund, where it will receive 5.0% for 12 months, and has already earned \$1161 for one month.

The Balance sheet figures were little changed from the previous report. Building Fund report for December was neutral. C Russo reviewed the operating report for November, noting that there were 3 payroll periods, and that a large donation was received by a patron in October to cover part of the cost of a new printer.

The full Giant Pumpkin Party financials were presented showing revenue and expense per quarter through 2023. While the operations of the day were at a loss, booklet net revenue and raffle sales helped make the total GPP event be positive for the year.

Cathy noted that fundraising income for the year was greater than recorded on the P&L vs Actual Budget report, and we exceeded our goals by over \$2000 for the year. She created more line items under the Building Op Maintenance category to account for specific expense types. Cathy renegotiated the telephone contract with Nextiva, saving \$62 per month beginning February 2024.

It was moved by Bill Richardson and seconded by Leanore to accept the financial statements for November. Motion carried.

Director's Report: Mikki Greene presented the Director's Report for December. The report summarized the winter activities including the concerts and children's programs, and included the statistics for December. Her report is attached.

Old Business: Mikki reported that a TBS / Stark technician visited the building to diagnose the geothermal system issues: conclusion was that one compressor had failed due to a software problem, which he fixed. A second issue seemed to be due to wiring, which may be easily resolved. TBS will be submitting a proposal to correct the various issues in the coming weeks. Mr. Rich Butler, head of maintenance at Sullivan County Community College, is familiar with the system at the college. He will be visiting the library to meet with Chris Russo and review our system.

Mari reviewed results from the SWOT sessions held with community members and staff in May. Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats were all ranked according to the number of votes each received by the groups. Board members will review the results on their own time.

Mari introduced the 2023 version of the Handbook for Library Trustees of New York State. Each director was given a copy.

New Business: Cathy Russo discussed the Tax Cap Override Resolution and presented proper language for the board motion. It was moved by Dave Schneyer and seconded by Kate Kelly to adopt the resolution as presented:

Whereas, the adoption of this 2025 budget for the Daniel Pierce Library requires a tax levy increase that exceeds the tax cap imposed by state law as outlined in General Municipal Law Section 3-c adopted in 2011; and

Whereas, General Municipal Law Section 3-c expressly permits the library board to override the tax levy limit by a resolution approved by a vote of sixty percent of qualified board members; now therefore be it

Resolved, that the Board of Trustees of the Daniel Pierce Library voted and approved to exceed the tax levy limit for 2025 by at least the sixty percent of the board of trustees as required by state law on January 17, 2024.

The motion was carried.

Mikki reminded members that the Mardi Gras donut sale fundraiser will be held February 12 and 13. The first day will be devoted to group special orders, and the second day will be for sales to the public pre-orders and walk-in customers.

Committee Updates:

Mikki reported that the 125th Anniversary committee activities: Joann Gallagher is creating a write up to be included on a plaque in honor of Paul Lounsbury.

It was moved by Kate and seconded by Bob to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:18pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Catherine Coombe, Secretary