

**MINUTES OF OCTOBER 16, 2023 MEETING
BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE TOWN HALL LIBRARY
TOWN OF MERTON, NORTH LAKE, WISCONSIN**

- I. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 3:45 pm by President Cull. Also attending were Trustees Herrick, Mesenbrink, Nawrocki, Ploch, Ruck, Vidas, and Library Director Iyengar. Trustee Rogers Blum arrived at 3:50 pm, and Bridges Library System Director Karol Kennedy arrived at 3:59 pm.
- II. Public Input:**
None.
- III. Consent Agenda:**
- a. The Minutes of the September 18, 2023 meeting and the September 25, 2023 special meeting were unanimously approved on Motion by Ploch, seconded by Vidas.
 - b. The Statistics report was approved as presented.
- IV. Committee Reports:**
- i. Director's Report was accepted as presented, including:
 - The spice kit program is popular; a teen meet and greet program was not; a very popular genealogy program will return on October 25.
 - A yoga program sponsored by Don Herrick will begin October 14 and run through November 18.
 - Parking lot striping and sealing has been completed. An animal nest was discovered above the study room ceiling, and an exterminator has been contacted. The well pump has been installed. A door has been ordered for the study room and will be installed by the end of October.
 - A staff education day was held the morning of September 29; the presentation was neuro-divergence in the workplace and was well received.
 - ii. The Bridges Library System report was accepted as presented.
 - iii. Friends Liaison: They are working on rescheduling meeting day and time.
 - iv. Foundation Liaison: No report.
 - v. Town Board Liaison: Will report during the budget portion of the agenda.
- V. Financial Reports:**
- a. September, 2023 invoices for \$93,774.02 were unanimously approved on Motion by Ploch, seconded by Vidas.
 - b. The September, 2023 Petty Cash Report for \$135.96 was approved unanimously on Motion by Rogers Blum, seconded by Vidas.
- VI. Unfinished Business:**
None.

VII. New Business:

- a. The 2024 budget was discussed at length. Herrick stated he believes we can reduce the budget by \$60,000. Vidas suggested we evaluate all employees. Ruck suggested we consider budget adjustments after those evaluations have been completed. Motion by Mesenbrink, seconded by Ruck and unanimously approved to extend the meeting by 15 minutes. The Town of Merton has requested some \$60,000 library revenue be returned to the Town to be used for general Town expenses. Kennedy stated the intent of the State of Wisconsin statutes is that libraries use all of the funds apportioned to them, even though shortfalls are happening in many municipalities. Motion by Vidas, seconded by Rogers Blum that we decline the request from the Town of Merton to use some library revenue for other Town expenses. A voice vote was called: Cull, Aye; Mesenbrink, Aye; Nawrocki, Nay; Ploch, Aye; Rogers Blum, Aye; Ruck, Aye; Vidas, Aye. Motion carried. Motion by Mesenbrink, seconded by Rogers Blum and unanimously approved, to approve the 2024 Budget in the amount of \$729,140, to include Town of Merton overhead of \$21,029.
- b. Legal consultation fees will be researched by Iyengar. No action taken.
- c. Motion by Rogers Blum, seconded by Ruck and unanimously approved, to close the Library on Friday, November 24, the day after Thanksgiving.
- d. Ploch will retire after the December board meeting; Iyengar was directed to post a Trustee opening for a Town of Merton resident.

VIII. Adjournment:

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:19pm on Motion by Ploch, seconded by Vidas and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary L Rogers Blum
Secretary

Next Meeting: Regular Library Board of Trustees
November 20, 2023 at the Town Hall Library at 3:45 pm