

**MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 19, 2024 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 Library Director Iyengar. She announced that President Cull was not attending due to illness. Also attending were Trustees Boettcher, Mesenbrink, Rogers Blum, Ruck, Vidas, and Stover. Iyengar asked Vidas to run the meeting, Vidas declined and asked Mesenbrink to run the meeting. Mesenbrink agreed. Trustee Herrick arrived at 3:48 pm.

**II. Public Input:**  
Vidas read a letter of resignation and requested it be made a part of these Minutes. Vidas said the letter had been e-mailed to all of the Trustees immediately prior to this meeting. Vidas then left the meeting after giving a printed copy of the resignation letter to the Secretary.

Motion by Rogers Blum, seconded by Boettcher and unanimously approved to accept Vidas' resignation.

Motion by Ruck, seconded by Mesenbrink and unanimously approved to incorporate Vidas' letter as part of these Minutes.

Vidas' letter of resignation is incorporated herein and made a part hereof, as follows:

*February 19, 2024*

*Town Hall Library Board of Trustees  
North Lake, WI 53064*

*Ladies and Gentlemen:*

*It is with great regret that I submit my immediate resignation as trustee for the Town Hall Library, and I request this letter be read into the minutes of the February 19, 2024, board meeting.*

*Recent actions this budget year by the Town of Merton Chairman, Clerk, and Supervisors in attempts to implement creative accounting practices with state-issued library funding have led me to conclude that I can no longer serve as a library Trustee in good conscience.*

*A library board must have members with appropriate credentials and ethics focused on community service. Currently, it is based on who can monitor library board meetings, steer all financial decisions to best serve the Town of Merton's financial needs, and instigate aggressive and confrontational behavior.*

*As a trustee, I strive for integrity and uphold values and principles that best align with the library, its patrons, and the taxpayers. Recent decisions and actions taken by the Town Board have diverged from those principles, and I will not support or endorse the manipulation of the Library Board.*

*My personal and professional values leave resignation my only option under the circumstances, as the Library Board has collectively attempted to voice concerns and advocate for alternative approaches. Still, any dissenting perspective is neither valued nor considered.*

*I sincerely appreciate the opportunity to serve as a Trustee and the relationships I have formed with my fellow board members. It's been an honor to contribute to the strategic direction and success of the Town Hall Library, and I'm proud of our accomplishments during my tenure. I will continue my support and advocacy as a library patron.*

*In closing, I am committed to ensuring a smooth transition and stand ready to provide any assistance necessary to facilitate the process.*

*Sincerely,*

*Robyn A. Vidas  
Vice-President, Town Hall Library Board of Trustees*

*Cc: Town of Merton Board of Supervisors  
Town Hall Library Director  
Karol Kennedy, Bridges Library System Director*

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Herrick said he will report the resignation and it will be on the agenda for the February 26 Town Board Meeting.

Iyengar said she was advised by Town Clerk Hann that any future Library Trustees will approved by the Town of Merton.

**III. Consent Agenda:**

- a. The Minutes of the January 16, 2024 meeting were unanimously approved on Motion by Mesenbrink, seconded by Boettcher.
- b. The Statistics report was accepted as presented.

**IV. Committee Reports:**

- i. Director's Report was accepted as presented, including:
  - Attendance at programs has been good; circulation was good, even considering a week of very bad weather.
  - New programs have been well attended and received, and more new programs will be rolled out in the coming weeks.
  - Painting the walls in the upper level has been completed.
  - She attended Library Legislative Day in Madison, and encouraged Trustees to attend with her next year. She met with legislators and presented testimonials from our patrons.
  - This year Iyengar will review our library's policies with the goal of updating them if necessary. She attended a meeting conducted by Bridges Library System which provided attorney approved suggested policies.
- ii. The Bridges Library System report was accepted as presented.
- iii. Friends Liaison: Rogers Blum reported five new members have been added to the board, and the Friends will have its annual meeting on May 30 at Chenequa Country Club, to include a fund-raising silent auction. She encouraged all board members to donate an item to the auction, as proceeds are used to fund \$2,500 of the library's summer reading program. The relocated Buy-the-Book room is increasing popularity and revenue.
- iv. Foundation Liaison: No report.
- v. Town Board Liaison: Herrick started to speak about staff salaries and was informed he was out of order because it was not on the Agenda and salaries must be discussed in Closed Session. Herrick then stated the Auditors had questioned the library's budget and general fund increases. His verbal report was imprecise, and he was asked to add it to the Agenda for the March meeting and to bring a specific written report with copies for all Trustees.

**V. Financial Reports:**

- a. January, 2024 invoices for \$34,428.12 were unanimously approved on Motion by Rogers Blum, seconded by Boettcher.
- b. The January, 2024 Petty Cash Report for \$134.31 was approved unanimously on Motion by Boettcher, seconded by Roger Blum.

**VI. Unfinished Business:**

None.

**VII. New Business:**

- a. Iyengar was notified by the Town Accountant the 2023 Public Library Annual Report numbers were correct and that it can be submitted. Motion by Rogers Blum, seconded by Boettcher and unanimously approved to authorize the President and the Director to sign the report and submit it to the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.
- b. Iyengar welcomed new members Boettcher and Stover to the Board, and mentioned that she had sent a link to all board members to access the Department of Public Instruction's Trustees Essentials, and encouraged all members to review it.

**VIII. Adjournment:**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:03 pm on Motion by Rogers Blum, seconded by Stover and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary L. Rogers Blum  
Secretary

Next Meeting: Regular Library Board of Trustees  
March 18, 2024 at the Town Hall Library at 3:45 pm

