

Bedford Free Public Library
Library Trustees Minutes
Wednesday, June 28th, 2023
7:00 PM

Join the Zoom Meeting:

Webinar link: <https://zoom.us/j/82805797031>

(No password required)

Telephone 1-929-205-6099

Meeting ID: 828 0579 7031

Review and Signing of Bills

Call to Order

Michael Pulizzi called the meeting to order at 7:06pm

Present: Elizabeth Hacala, Rachel Field, Padma Choudry, Fahad Alden, Renae Nichols, Michael Pulizzi; Absent: Abby Hafer

Public Comments - None

Secretary's Report - None

Director's Report - None

Unfinished Business

- HVAC Project
 - bids coming in for the project were too high
 - Tassir Alani, Facilities Director met with Northeast Engineering engineers for advice on how to proceed
 - 2 options:
 - A: Go back to town meeting to request additional funds, and then rebid the project
 - B: Redesign the project to fit the budget, still working towards net zero, but no electric boiler at this time
 - Old part of the building retains same scope
 - Some changes in the newer building to reduce costs
 - replace current 5 boilers with 2 energy efficient boilers
 - new gas boilers can be replaced down the road with electric boiler
 - Library would close for up to 6 months to expedite the work
 - Richard discussed with library staff, they could continue to work and provide curbside pickup
 - Option B preferred over asking for more funding
 - Concerns about closing for 6 months for people who rely on the library, especially those for heat and computer access
 - Concerns about going to special town meeting
 - may not get the funding
 - would delay the start of the project significantly, system could break in the meantime
 - Question about why closing the library saves money- closing allows more working during the day as opposed to nights and weekends, which results in cheaper labor

- Concerns about how we ended up in this situation, with downsizing the project and needing to close- it's a disservice to our patrons
- Question about if corporation funds could be used- no, it's a town owned building and should be maintained by the town
- Point raised that inflation likely complicated things- increase in costs, increase in labor
- Concerns about the allocation of the money and moving the project forward- the delay of the project has made this difficult
- Point raised about it being worth it to ask for additional funds
- Special town meeting in November is the earliest we could ask for funds, if not then it would be the annual town meeting in March
- If option B, project would likely start in September or October
 - Select Board may need to approve option A or B or a different plan
 - Northeast Engineering would have to redesign the project
 - New bids would need to be acquired
- Point raised that we don't have to decide tonight
 - Concerns about rolling back the net zero options were expressed
 - We should go to the Select Board to hear what possible solutions there might be, they should hear our concerns
 - Next select board meeting is in about 2 weeks
- Point raised that even if we can get additional funding, the library will possibly be closed for some period (maybe 3-4 weeks)
- Point raised that this could result in a loss of staff
 - staff will be fully paid
 - curbside is very staff intensive
- Question about how long we'll have this money- a few years
- Question about how much we'll save by going with efficient gas boilers and how much will be saved on labor by closing the library
- Question about who will oversee the project from Facilities as they will be without a director
- Point raised that the board should be able to see the documentation
- Question about could we ask Facilities for a partial closure to allow for some patron usage during the project
- Richard will ask for a meeting with the Select Board, hopefully a Zoom meeting next week

New Business

None

Other Business

None

Next Meeting: Tuesday, July 11th, 2023

Adjournment

Rachel motions to adjourn the meeting at 8:16

Fahad seconds

Aye: Elizabeth, Rachel, Padma, Fahad, Renae, Michael 6-0