

**HOWLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY
MINUTES OF THE EMERGENCY MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MAY 6, 2020**

Pledge of Allegiance

Call to Order: Jan Dolan called the meeting to order at 8:00 PM.

Roll Call of Members:

Via video conference: Jan Dolan, Arabella Drouillard, Diane Landau-Flayter, Kathleen Furfey, Darlene Resling, Thomas Rigney, Karen Twohig, and Director Kristen Salierno, *ex officio* and Recording Secretary Julie Beyer.

Votes: All votes were unanimous, unless otherwise noted.

New Business:

K. Salierno explained the Governor's directives regarding the process of elections and budget votes for school districts and libraries. As the library's attorney, Thomas, Drohan, Waxman, Petigrow & Mayle, LLP is also the attorney for the school district, K. Salierno requested that the Board review and approve the Waiver of Potential Conflict of Interest. On a **motion** by T. Rigney and seconded by D. Landau-Flayter this was approved to be signed. A. Drouillard asked if the school district also had to sign one and K. Salierno stated yes. J. Dolan stated this is relatively common.

K. Salierno stated that on Friday the Governor gave two options for library elections. They can either be put on the ballot with the school district or the library can mail a ballot, with return stamped envelope, to every eligible voter in the school district. She has spoken to Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, the attorney, and J. Beyer as election clerk and they all recommended having the library's vote combined with the school districts. J. Dolan asked if the school was willing to do this and K. Salierno stated it is their responsibility, but everything has to be to them by Monday evening. A. Drouillard asked if this could be for the budget only and not the trustees and K. Salierno stated that as per the answers received at this point, it is for the budget and the trustee positions. The petition will be put online tomorrow and can be electronically sent directly to Kelly Pologe at the school district. J. Dolan asked if anyone else had shown interest in running and K. Salierno said no. A. Drouillard asked how the open positions will be filled and K. Salierno stated by write ins. The Board will need to do some work to try to find people who are interested and who would be willing to be write ins, but the budget should be their main concern.

On a **motion** by K. Furfey and seconded by D. Resling to have the library vote combined with the Beacon City School District vote. J. Dolan polled the Board:

A. Drouillard – aye
D. Landau-Flayter – aye
K. Furfey – aye
R. Lashua – aye
T. Rigney – aye
K. Twohig – aye
J. Dolan – aye
Motion carried.

K. Salierno stated she wanted to make sure the Board was still in agreement to put forth the budget that was approved in January. T. Rigney stated he is in favor of the 5.5% increase. He has attended webinars where they are being told to be sensitive about the current environment and to be conservative. There is a good chance changes will need to be made in expenditures as

the year progresses. A. Drouillard stated they need to be aware that the Governor can reduce or cut funding that he controls at any time. K. Salierno stated they will need to scale back on some things. J. Dolan stated there will be more people voting on the library budget once it is tied to the school district vote. T. Rigney stated he has been getting positive feedback from people regarding their appreciation for teachers and school and that may carry over to the library since it has been closed and people have not been able to use it or it's programs. This will be a good way to test the waters moving forward with other prospective projects.

K. Salierno stated the attorney has reviewed the bylaws and the petition and they don't match. His recommendation is that the bylaws be changed to match the petition. The suggestion is that the wording be changed from "registered" to "qualified". A. Drouillard asked if the bylaws had to specify what made someone qualified and K. Salierno stated no, the petition spelled that out. J. Dolan asked if that meant someone could run for trustee, but not be able to vote and K. Salierno said that was correct. On a **motion** by T. Rigney and seconded by A. Drouillard, the bylaws Article II "Eligibility for office shall be limited to qualified voters of the Beacon City School District." K. Twohig voted nay. All others voted aye. Motion carried.

K. Salierno stated she will make the alterations to the bylaws and petitions will be posted on the library website by tomorrow afternoon. She stated they are still working on re-opening procedures, but they won't be going back until June. Masks have been delivered for staff.

Adjournment:

D. Landau-Flayter made a **motion** to adjourn at 8:45 PM. Seconded by D. Resling and the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Beyer, Recording Secretary

MOTION to approve the Waiver of Potential Conflict of Interest

MOTION to have the library vote combined with the Beacon City School District vote

MOTION to wording of the bylaws will be changed to: "Eligibility for office shall be limited to qualified voters of the Beacon City School District."