

MADISON LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES WORK SESSION
MARCH 13, 2012
CHICK ROOM
APPROVED MINUTES

ATTENDANCE: Tom Reinfuss, Acting Chairperson; Ron Force, Angela Johnson, Mary Russell, Peter Stevens, Mary Cronin, Library Director

ABSENT: Sandra Carr, Melissa LaRoche, Mary Anne Sosnoff

CALL TO ORDER: Tom Reinfuss called the meeting to order at 2:05 PM. Tom said the purpose of this meeting was to prepare for the town meeting.

Board members discussed issues that they anticipated would be brought up at the town meeting. Central to the discussion were the issues of the operating budget of the library, which will be considered line by line; and Warrant Article 11, concerning the Library Equipment Expendable Trust Fund.

Board members felt they needed to be prepared to discuss areas of increase in the budget such as maintenance and technology. It was pointed out that the cost of maintenance increased because of rising fuel costs, and the costs of shoveling, which had previously been assumed by the Trustees. Librarian Mary Cronin reminded the board that the library building is now 17 years old, requiring more maintenance than a new building. Other maintenance issues were the costs of repairing the steps and installing necessary outdoor lighting.

Mary Cronin pointed out that the balance in the Library Expendable Trust Fund is now \$158.74. Board members agreed that staying relevant with the latest technology is important and that technology is the big draw now, but that this year is going to be more challenging than prior years. Board members discussed calling for a secret ballot if the discussion of an issue such as technology becomes controversial.

Peter Stevens suggested that if it seems appropriate at the time, board members could mention that the town support of the library is 20% lower than town support for libraries in other towns our size and that the library budget is 2-3% of the town budget.

An additional item discussed was the new path from the school to the library. Peter suggested naming the path "Beverly's Path" in honor of former board chair Beverly Klitsch. Board members agreed with this idea.

ADJOURNMENT: Peter Stevens moved to adjourn, seconded by Ron Force. The meeting was adjourned at 2:37 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Ambrose

Recording Secretary

Draft Minutes e-mailed to the Trustees, Town Clerk, and Library Director on March 14, 2012

Town of Madison, Board of Library Trustees Work Session for March 13, 2012