

**Hyde Park Library
Board of Trustees Meeting
September 26, 2024**

Present: President L. Ruggiero, V.P. C. Chambers, P. Agne, K. Armstrong, D. Hinton, M. H. Williams, and Library Director L. Palmer

Call to Order - L. Ruggiero called the meeting to order at 6:29 p.m.

The CIPA compliance necessary to apply for eRate funding was reviewed and discussed.

L. Ruggiero gave an update regarding the construction project. The price has doubled, and the longer the board delays starting the more costs could go up.

Because of the expense, the architects have suggested the library install a lift instead of an elevator. A lift would be smaller, but still ADA-approved, and would save the library tens of thousands of dollars (about \$70,000, according to the architects). The other benefit is the shaft for the lift does not have to be buried as deeply as an elevator shaft, which would have been close to the water table and required a sump pump. The smaller shaft would also clear the cesspool tank.

The HVAC system keeps breaking down, so there is an urgency to get that fixed, as well.

P. Agne expressed concern about the money tied up in the projects and the fact that grants have already been written for an elevator, not a lift.

L. Ruggiero said she talked to Margaret at DASNY and there are no expected problems with the SAM and CREST grants.

If the library goes with a lift instead of an elevator, the architects confirmed they won't have to switch to three-phase electric, but will install a three-phase panel so that if three-phase electric is required in the future, that part of the project will be complete.

P. Agne asked if the board can see a presentation comparing the advantages of a lift to an elevator.

K. Armstrong asked how much the library has made from fundraising and how much is needed for the project. L. Ruggiero said that by her calculations, the library has enough money to move forward with the projects. She said the library has \$400,000 in undesignated funds, and \$200,000 of it can be put toward the matching DLD grants. The Friends have raised \$30,000 from events.

C. Chambers asked if the budget will sustain maintenance of an elevator or lift. L. Ruggiero said in the past, taxes have not been raised to the level the library needs, so from now on the library will have to ask for appropriate tax increases.

President's Report: L. Ruggiero opened up three CDs. She said she and S. Buckley tried to open treasury accounts and were told that process would take 6-8 weeks, so CDs were the better, more timely option.

Motion: To approve the July minutes. P. Agne made the motion, C. Chambers seconded. All were in favor.

Motion: To approve the Special Meeting Minutes of July 29. P. Agne made the motion, C. Chambers seconded. All were in favor.

Finance Report:

Three two-month CDs totaling \$375,000 were opened at Chase this month, using the funds in our Chase savings account from the money received from the town for this year. The amounts were \$100,000, \$125,000 and \$150,000.

In late July we received a \$25,000 matching elevator grant from the McCann Foundation.

The expense account Professional Expense has a total of \$63,365.88 in it, comprised of the following:

Choice Words	\$6000
Butler, Rowland & Mays	\$55,365.88
Whiteman, Osterhoudt & Hanna	\$2000

Overall expenses are at 82.6% versus 75% for this point in the year.

Finance Committee Meeting Report: P. Agne said concerns about the construction projects' costs and phases and the grants were discussed. The committee also brought up the possibility of having to raise additional funds.

New Business:

Motion: To approve pursuit of eRate funding pending approval of an Internet Safety Policy. C. Chambers made the motion, D. Hinton seconded. All were in favor.

Motion: To pursue installation of a lift instead of an elevator. K. Armstrong made the motion, D. Hinton seconded. All were in favor except P. Agne, who abstained.

Summary of Motions:

Motion: To approve the July minutes. P. Agne made the motion, C. Chambers seconded. All were in favor.

Motion: To approve the Special Meeting Minutes of July 29. P. Agne made the motion, C. Chambers seconded. All were in favor.

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Motion: To pursue the installation of a lift instead of an elevator. K. Armstrong made the motion, D. Hinton seconded. All were in favor except P. Agne, who abstained.

Adjournment: 7:39 p.m.

Next Meeting: Oct. 24, 6 p.m.