

STARR LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

68 WEST MARKET STREET

RHINEBECK, NY 12572

NOTICE OF MEETING Thursday, March 27, 2025, 5:30 PM

Trustees Present: Jay Burgess, Laura Charles, Erin Humbaugh, Valerie Jacob, Mimi Joh-Carnella, Al Ragucci, Laura Selicaro, Andrew Schulkind, Eve Wood, and Director Jaclyn Savolainen. Jim Ruderman was absent and provided apologies. Stephen Frost attended on behalf of The Friends as its President and Representative.

I. Call to order and review of agenda: Eve, President of the Board, called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

II. Public Comment Period

No comments.

III. Minutes from the February meeting: Valerie noted that there were no comments on the draft minutes. A motion was made to approve the minutes, which motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

IV. Treasurer's Report

Andrew presented the report for the month of February. Financial information for such period was provided to the Trustees in advance of the meeting. Andrew updated the Trustees on the balances in the different bank and investment accounts and reported that the annual funds from the town based on tax receipts had been received, as noted in last month's meeting. A discussion ensued, and all questions asked were appropriately answered. A motion was made to approve the Treasurer's Report, which motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

V. Friends Report

Stephen reported on behalf of The Friends that they were preparing for the next book sale to be held on April 4/5. It was noted that The Friends have donated to Starr Library \$1,500 for large print books and \$1,000 for museum passes. The Trustees expressed their appreciation.

VI. Director's Report

Jaclyn then provided the Director's report which had been previously provided to the Trustees in advance of the meeting. Jaclyn noted the upcoming Friends Book sale on April 4th and 5th. A number of programs were highlighted in Jaclyn's report, including the Free for All: Inside The Public Library Screening at Upstate Films to be held on Monday, April 14th from 5:15 p.m. – 7:00 p.m., the Writing Workshops which continue to be very popular, and the Roger Philips Concert Series presenting Raman Ramakrishnan & Bard Chamber Quintet on Saturday, April 19th from 4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. She further noted that the Annual Appeal has wound down and did very well, raising approximately \$84,000. She informed the Trustees of the new Mid-Hudson Library app which she recommended to all. Lastly, she reported that the Annual Report to the Community would be completed soon.

Statistics for the month of February were included in the Director's Report.

A discussion ensued among the Trustees about the above topics and the Director's report. All questions asked were appropriately answered.

VII. Claims and Warrants

Andrew presented the report to the Board. A motion was made to approve the claims and warrants, which motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

VIII. Committee Reports

Fundraising Committee: The minutes of the last meeting of the Fundraising Committee were distributed to the Trustees in advance of the meeting. Erin reported that Jaclyn will work with Committee members on preparing a donor approved case for support. She noted that Al and Jim agreed to assist in gathering the necessary information. She also noted that the Committee is still discussing whether to engage a fundraiser advisor/consultant. Erin then discussed the date of the annual gala and it was agreed that the annual gala would be held on October 4th. A further discussion ensued among the Trustees, and all questions asked were appropriately answered.

Public Relations Committee: Jay noted that the Starr Library will have a booth at the Farmer's Market on June 22nd and September 21st.

Concert Committee: Mimi updated the Trustees that a budget prepared by the Concert Committee had been received and is being reviewed.

IX. Correspondence

Jaclyn noted favorable communication which had been received.

X. Old Business

Jaclyn then led a discussion of the Trustees having agreed to override the annual tax levy cap and noted the resolutions passed at the previous meeting. Updated background information was distributed to the Trustees in advance of the meeting. Jaclyn further noted that NY State recommends that 90% of a library's operating budget be funded by tax dollars. The Starr Library is currently at approximately 74%, well below that recommendation, and below the average for Mid-Hudson libraries, which average is 88%, each as reported at the last meeting. Jaclyn also discussed the timing of certain actions to be taken before the vote, including obtaining at least 25 qualified signatures on a petition to place on the Rhinebeck ballot and voted upon at the next general election approval to increase the 2026 operating budget for Starr Library. A discussion ensued among the Trustees, and all questions asked were appropriately answered. The Trustees approved Jaclyn's recommendation to increase the tax levy to \$546,800.. A motion was made to approve the resolutions on Appendix A, which motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

XI. New Business

Andrew noted to the Trustees that, as reported earlier, Starr Library maintains cash in its operating account in an amount exceeding anticipated short-term cash needs. Andrew recommended to the Board that \$140,000 of such funds be invested in a six-month certificate of deposit. He and Jaclyn discussed, as background for the Trustees, the historical monthly spending of the Library and anticipated cash needs generally. A discussion ensued among the Trustees, and all questions asked were appropriately answered. A motion was made to approve the resolutions on Appendix A, which motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

XII. Public Comment Period

None.

XIII. Executive Session

None.

XIV. Adjournment

There being no other business to conduct, a motion was made to adjourn, which motion was seconded and unanimously approved at 6:30 p.m.

Next Meeting Date: April 24, 5:30 p.m.

APPENDIX A

Tax Levy Limit

Whereas, the adoption of the 2026 budget for the Starr Library may require a tax levy increase that exceeds the tax limit imposed by state law as outlined in General Municipal Law Section 3-c adopted in 2011; and

Whereas, General Municipal Law Section 3-c expressly permits the Starr Library Board of Trustees to override the tax levy limit by a resolution approved by a vote of sixty percent of qualified board members; now therefore be it:

RESOLVED, that pursuant to the General Municipal Law Section 3-c(5), the Board of Trustees of the Starr Library overrides for the purpose of the Starr Library 2026 Fiscal Year budget, the tax levy limit imposed by Municipal Law Section 3-c(3); and

RESOLVED, that the following question be set forth on a petition to be signed by at least 25 qualified voters: "SHALL THE ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION OF RHINEBECK FOR THE OPERATING BUDGET OF STARR LIBRARY BE INCREASED BY EIGHTY-TWO THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$82,000) TO THE SUM OF FIVE HUNDRED FORTY-SIX THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$546,800) ANNUALLY;" and

RESOLVED, that the officers and Trustees of Starr Library are authorized and directed to seek to obtain the signatures as set forth in the foregoing resolution.

Certificate of Deposit

Whereas, the Starr Library currently holds funds in its operating account which are in excess of its operating cash flow needs for the next six months;

Whereas, the Starr Library has in the past invested excess funds in a certificate of deposit;

Whereas, the Board of the Trustees considers it prudent cash management to continue to do so if appropriate; now therefore be it:

RESOLVED, that the officers of the Starr Library be, and they hereby are, authorized and directed to purchase a six-month certificate of deposit with \$140,000 of funds from the Starr Library's operating account;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all banking and other financial institution resolutions required to accomplish the foregoing are hereby approved as if adopted at this meeting; and

Omnibus Resolution

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the officers and Trustees of Starr Library be, and they hereby are, authorized and directed to take all actions and execute all documents necessary to accomplish the purpose of the foregoing Resolutions.