

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF THE RENFREW PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD

Date & Time: **September 28th, 2020 @ 5 pm**
Location: Virtual Meeting via Zoom

1. Welcome and Roll Call

Members Present: Margaret Maloney, Jane Donnelly, Donna Clark, Kelly Thompson (CEO), Heather Dale, Tom Sidney (Councillor), Andrew Evans (Councillor)

Regrets: Christin Miller

Guests: N/A

2. Consensus Agenda

The Agenda

3. Conflict of Interest N/A

4. Financial Statement

Approval of draft budget #2

- Reviewed and discussed changes
- Wages for cleaning staff was added and accurate estimate of staff wages also included in draft #2
- Question about final difference between first and second drafts, with second draft coming in lower. Kelly to double-check all numbers prior to approval
- Lowered building and repairs amount
- Internet has gone up to start budgeting for the hotspots, so adding \$1500 - \$2000 each year to build in a reserve
- Tabled approval of budget to October Board Meeting

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

6. New Business

Discussion of possible service agreement with nearby municipality

- Kelly had mentioned at the last meeting this was a possibility
- CEO believes that RPL should reach out and have discussions with Greater Madawaska PL to explore if they would be interested in looking at alternative service model
- Has been successful between Cobourg PL and Hamilton Township
- Not looking at a branch – but service agreement model
- CEO believes this may be an it is an excellent opportunity, benefiting both libraries
- Discussion revolved around what a potential agreement could look like

- Would benefit those living closer to Renfrew
- Discussions continued re: budget models, service models, representation, cost benefits
- Discussion also touched on protocols (i.e. How do we ensure everyone is informed? What order should the communication take?) Councillor Sidney thinks that if the Greater Madawaska Library Board agrees to further discussions, etc., then a business plan should be presented to Renfrew Council, followed by Council of Greater Madawaska Andrew

MOTION: Moved by Tom Sidney, seconded by Heather Dale that the CEO be granted permission to approach the Greater-Madawaska Public Library Board to discuss service possibilities. Carried (although Councillor Andrew abstained from voting)

At this point in the meeting Councillor Evans declared a Point of Order –

Councillor Evans indicated that documents for the meeting were sent out much to close to the meeting time and wants a precedent set so it does not happen again

The CEO clarified that it happened really quickly, and was not done intentionally.

Councillor Sidney clarified that the Board is simply allowing a conversation to occur between the CEO and the GMPL Board.

Conversation ensued, as well as disagreement of viewpoints. After much back and forth, a decision was made that the CEO will speak with Clerk Bulmer prior to approaching the GMPL Board. Other Board Members did indicate that the CEO has advised the Board at the September Board meeting that this type of meeting would be called soon, so was not a surprise to the Board Members.

The CEO's concern is that this type of discussion **MUST** happen between Library Boards and any decisions must be made between Library Boards, as indicated in the Ontario Public Libraries Act. She acknowledged this came up quickly, but indicated she kept nothing from the Board and shared information as soon as she had it. She also reiterated that there is no pressure to make any decision and is happy to table the discussion to another time that suits the Board.

- 7. Next Regular Board Meeting – October 20th, 2020**
- 8. Adjournment @ 5:49 pm *Motioned by Donna Clark***