

Call to Order: As a quorum was present, President Becky Leggieri called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM

Present: Pat Adams, Cynthia Barton (Cindy), Nathan Davis, Virginia (Ginny) Downs, Liz Hackney, Tanja (Tania) Konwinski, Becky Leggieri, Catherine Ryder (Cathie), Julia Walter, Linda Carpenter (treasurer), Jody Pugh (Friends), Kim Zimmer (Library Director)

Excused: Denise Klug

Guests and Public Comment: Colleen Mahar, Executive Director of Head Start and possibly interested candidate for the vacant Library Board of Trustees position and Chris Tretter, our new Accountant.

Minutes: The Minutes of January 24, 2026 Board of Trustees meeting was reviewed and a motion made by Julia to accept the minutes and this was seconded by Pat and unanimously passed. The Minutes of the special meeting regarding snow plowing contracts held on February 5, 2026 were reviewed and Pat made the motion to accept, seconded by Julia and they were unanimously passed.

Communications: None noted.

Directors' Report: Kim provided an extensive list of information in her written report. She highlighted the following: Maple Fest on April 25, and asked board members to sign up for time slots, if they have not already done so, to help with Children's activities and community interaction. Kim reminded Tania, Nathan and Colleen that Petitions for the Board of Trustee positions will be available on the first business day of March from the clerk at the school business office. Kim will be on vacation for several days and asked the board to check in with staff and keep an eye on snowfall/walkway and parking lot conditions. There will be an MVLS Symposium in Fort Plain on May 6. Work continues with a new calendar system (Who-Fi) to track stats, schedule committee meetings etc. It will roll out in March. She also mentioned that there were some major issues with one of the boilers not receiving water and emergency repairs have been made and a major boiler part needs to be installed to "fix" the boiler. She suggested that some of the money that had been ear-marked for landscaping be used for boiler work instead. Kim and staff were thanked for the quick actions to protect life safety and building safety in this emergency situation.

Friends: Jody stated that there are currently 51 official members of the Friends of the Community Library. The Basket Raffle and Book Sale will be Sept 19th. They will provide money for food and prizes for Battle of the Books on April 2. Their next meeting is March 7 at 10:15.

Treasurers Report: Chris Tretter, Accountant, presented the financial reports for January. He did a very detailed run-through of each page of the report and questions and discussion were carried out. There will continue to be some modifications of how the reports look, such as larger print, elimination of duplicate or outdated line items and using the electronic system to pull reports to prevent manual input in the monthly reports. Discussion occurred in regard to how the Tax Levy should be handled in the accounting system and Finance Committee will continue to work with Tretter to be sure this is displayed in the best manner. After questions and discussion Ginny moved to accept the Financial Reports which passed unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Finance: All board members present signed the documents to pay the bills that were presented.

Ginny then presented the following statement:

“Whereas, the adoption of this 2027 budget for The Community Library in Cobleskill, NY, may require a tax levy increase that exceeds the tax cap 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 library board 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 the Board of Trustees of The Community Library voted and approved to exceed the tax levy limit for 2027 if necessary, by at least sixty percent of the board of trustees as required by state law on February 24, 2026.”

With a show of hands, the trustees approved this resolution: Results: Yes- 9; No-0; Absent-1.

Discussion then took place in regard to the what budget amount is necessary to support the operational costs of the library. The initial budget of \$529,848 proposed by Ginny of the Finance Committee was defeated by a vote of 5 to 4. Discussion occurred further in regard to seeking to balance the operational costs of the library while also considering the financial demands on the taxpayers. A proposal was then made by Ginny/Finance committee with a proposal of \$546,480 was made. A vote was taken and this passed unanimously with 9 votes in favor.

It is important to note that the Tax Levy is not being exceeded to support the cost of work for the renovation of the back portion of the Library building. It is for the operational expenses of current library building, staff and programs, to include building maintenance for the boiler, roof, and structural repairs.

Building and Grounds: Nathan and Kim presented information in regard to the need to order parts and repair work for the boiler to cost approximately \$5,000. Nathan proposed that the board authorize the order for the parts and work, and the board unanimously approved the proposal. Kim will check with insurance to see if any portion of the parts or work is covered. Nathan stated that the new snow removal company has been responsive and doing quality work with no plowing in of the gate or trash bins. Our landscape company presented several options to enhance our grounds and greenery. Careful consideration will be made in regard to staging this work over several seasons/as funding comes available. Additionally, Nathan mentioned that there will need to be some chimney re-pointing, and roof repairs. A major priority is installation of a gutter system to help to route water away from the building to prevent damage to our foundation. He is in receipt of an estimate in the range of \$7,000 to \$8,000 to do this gutter work. The Buildings and Grounds committee will meet in early March and discuss any immediate priorities to present to the board at the next meeting. Going forward, the committee states that we will need to include significant budgeting and fundraising/grants to put toward major building and grounds projects.

Personnel: Kim and Julia report that there have been 2 in-person interviews and 1 Zoom interview for the part-time Librarian Assistant and references are being checked. Julia then proposed that paid library staff be allowed to participate in a voluntary Health Savings Account with payroll deduction for this, with no employer contributions at this time. The board approved this unanimously.

Policy: Pat presented 3 policies for board review and approval with the first being the 2026 revised Fee Schedule. It was approved unanimously. Next, Pat presented the revised Library Card Registration Policy which was also unanimously approved. Finally, the New Pet Policy was reviewed and also

unanimously approved. Pat utilized the projector so that the board could see the old to compare to the new/revised which was very helpful and also saved paper.

Board Development: The committee has presented their input into the developing Long Range Plan documents for 2026-2030. They will be presenting the 2026 Board Committee Slates in the very near future being sure that no single committee will represent a quorum of voting board members.

Long Range Planning: The committee thanked all who have been considering initiatives for the Long Range Plans for the Library and also for the Renovation Project. The LRP is meeting regularly and updating the draft documents as information and ideas come forward. Kim is working with staff for the operational library initiatives. The committee will provide updated plans for all to consider at future meetings until a document is available to put forth for full board vote.

Unfinished Business: Cindy, the secretary will not be at the next board meeting in March. Cathie Ryder agreed to take the minutes with Tanja agreeing to take the minutes if Cathie is not able to attend.

Adjournment: Julia made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Pat and the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 PM

Next Meeting: Tuesday March24, 2026 4PM to 6PM.

Submitted by: Cynthia Barton (Cindy), Secretary