



(APPROVED 10/17/24)

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
NEW CITY LIBRARY**

September 19, 2024 (7 p.m.)

(New City Library, 220 North Main St., New City, NY)

PRESENT: Nicholas A. Longo, Jr., Vice-President
James Ferguson, Secretary
Joseph Ciardullo, Trustee
Roxanne T. Perrone, Trustee
Mindy Rader, Trustee
Patricia Ranieri, Trustee

STAFF: Marianne Gallagher, Library Director
Shibu Abraham, Facilities and Finance Manager
Kelly Corrado, Administrative Assistant

ABSENT: Patricia Voce, President
Robert Axelrod, Treasurer
Jeffrey Sasson, Trustee

I. INTRODUCTORY

Due to President Voce's absence, the meeting was presided over by Vice-President Longo.

a. Meeting Called to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m.

The *Pledge of Allegiance* was recited.

b. Seating of Appointed Board Member: Mindy Rader:

On behalf of the Board, Vice-President Longo welcomed Mindy Rader to the Board. Trustee Rader provided a brief summary of her background and expressed her gratitude and honor to serve the community through the Library.

II. REVIEW OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Secretary Ferguson presented to the Board for acceptance the *Minutes* of the previous month's meeting.

- Upon motion made by Ferguson and duly seconded by Perrone, it was:

RESOLVED, *That the Board accept the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of August 15, 2024.*

The Resolution was passed by all those present (Axelrod, Sasson, and Voce, absent). (RM#1-09/2024)

III. REPORTS

a. Personnel and Finance Committee (Axelrod, Chair):

i. Financial Report and Warrant:

Due to Treasurer Axelrod's absence, *Personnel and Finance Committee* member Longo reported that the Library's operating expenditures were \$391,576 and the capital expenditures were \$0.

Longo presented to the Board for approval last month's *Warrant*.

- Upon motion made by Ferguson and duly seconded by Rader, it was:

RESOLVED, *That the Board approve Warrant #2 in the amount of \$391,576.*

The Resolution was passed by all those present (Axelrod, Sasson, and Voce, absent). (RM#2-09/2024)

ii. Override Tax Cap and FY2026 Proposed Budget:

Longo reported that the *Committee* recently met to discuss the *FY2026 Proposed Budget* and recommends that the Board approve a resolution overriding the tax cap and approve the *FY2026 Proposed Budget*.

- Upon motion made by Ferguson and duly seconded by Perrone, it was:

Whereas, the adoption of this 2026 Budget for the New City Library requires a tax levy increase that may exceed 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 New City Library voted and approved to exceed the tax levy limit for 2026 by at least sixty percent of the Board of Trustees as required by state law and approved the FY2026 Proposed Budget on September 19, 2024.

The Resolution was passed by all those present (Axelrod, Sasson, and Voce, absent). (RM#3-09/2024)

iii. FY2026 Proposed Budget

Facilities and Finance Manager Abraham presented to the Board for approval the *FY2026 Proposed Budget*, which reflects a 3% increase in the tax levy. A short discussion followed.

- Upon motion made by Ciardullo and duly seconded by Perrone, it was:

RESOLVED, That the Board approve the FY2026 Proposed Budget.

The Resolution was passed by all those present (Axelrod, Sasson, and Voce, absent). (RM#4-09/2024)

b. Building and Grounds Committee (Sasson, Chair):

i. Renovation Project:

Due to Sasson's absence, Facilities and Finance Manager Abraham reported on the following:

Invoice #22: *Consigli Construction Company* had submitted *Invoice #22* for payment and Abraham presented it to the Board for approval.

- Upon motion made by Ranieri and duly seconded by Rader, it was:

RESOLVED, That the Board approve the payment of Invoice #22 to Consigli Construction.

The Resolution was passed by all those present (Axelrod, Sasson, and Voce, absent). (RM#5-09/2024)

Sidewalk Repairs: *Consigli Construction* will be replacing the deteriorating sidewalks. The repair work will commence in approximately two weeks. A lengthy discussion followed.

West Wall Drainage Project: The contract from *Danny Clapp Landscaping* for the *West Wall Drainage Project* has been reviewed. Abraham and Director Gallagher will meet with *Clapp* on September 21. The work is expected to take approximately eight weeks and will run simultaneously with the sidewalk repairs.

Switchgear and Generator: The replacement of the switchgear and the installation of a generator will be part of the next grant cycle. The grant application had been submitted to the *Ramapo Catskill Library System (RCLS)* for approval.

c. Policy and Planning Committee (Longo, Chair):

i. Election Barrier Lines:

Longo reported that since the Library is an election polling place, he and Treasurer Axelrod contacted the *Rockland County Board of Elections* for clarification on the placement of the *No-electioneering Barrier Line*. A short discussion followed.

ii. Appointment of Trustee Rader to Committee:

Due to President Voce's absence, Vice-President Longo appointed Trustee Rader to the *Policy and Planning Committee*.

d. Legal Affairs Committee (Ranieri, Chair):

Ranieri reported that a resolution had been reached with *Consigli Construction* regarding several outstanding matters and that the Board is waiting to receive from Attorney Brian Nugent, the Library's counsel, a draft of the letter to *Consigli* for their signature, noting the terms of the agreement.

e. Ad Hoc Committee: Election Committee (Longo, Chair):

Longo reported on the following:

i. 2024 Trustee Election:

The deadline for residents to submit an *Application and Petition for Trustee of the Board* form is 4:45 p.m. on, or before, October 9.

f. President's Report (Voce):

Due to President Voce's absence, there was no report.

g. Director's Report (Gallagher):

Director Gallagher referred to her written report and also reported on the following:

- The *Personnel and Finance Committee* will need to meet before the October Board meeting to discuss the *Ramapo Catskill Library System (RCLS) 2025 Operating Budget*.
- Director Gallagher reminded the trustees that they must take two hours of *Trustee Training* annually, of which she must attest to on the *New York State Annual Report*.
- Trustees must also take the annual *Sexual Harassment Prevention Training*, which is mandated by *New York State*, and is separate from the *Trustee Training* requirements.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. RCLS Annual Meeting:

Trustee Ferguson reported that he attended the *RCLS Annual Meeting* on September 6 with Treasurer Axelrod, Director Gallagher, Facilities and Finance Manager Abraham, and Community Relations Head Veronica Reynolds.

V. NEW BUSINESS

a. Board Communications (Ferguson, Secretary):

Secretary Ferguson had nothing to report.

b. RCLS Battle of the Books:

Vice-President Longo reported that he attended the recent *RCLS Battle of the Books*, in which his daughter participated as part of the *New City Library Team*, and was pleased to report that the *New City Library Team* won 2nd Place. Longo congratulated the team, along with Teen Librarian Mary Phillips, for an outstanding job in the competition.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

The following public comments were received:

- A patron expressed her delight with the outcome of the newly-renovated Library, stating that she “loved the renovation!”

VII. ADJOURNMENT

- Upon motion made by Ferguson and duly seconded by Ciardullo, it was:

RESOLVED, *that the Board adjourn the meeting.*

The Resolution was passed by all those present (Axelrod, Sasson, and Voce, absent; Ranieri not present for the vote due to her early departure at 7:55 p.m.). (RM#6-09/2024)

Meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Submitted by James Ferguson, Secretary
Board of Trustees
NEW CITY LIBRARY
October 3, 2024

JF/kc