



**(APPROVED 11/19/20)**  
**MINUTES OF THE**  
**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**NEW CITY LIBRARY**  
October 15, 2020  
*(Via Zoom Video Conferencing)*

**PRESENT:** Victor Berger, President  
David Zuckerberg, Vice-President  
Denis O’Hanlon, Treasurer  
Robert Axelrod, Secretary  
Phyllis Morena, Trustee  
Patricia Ranieri, Trustee  
Jeffrey Sasson, Trustee  
Patricia Voce, Trustee

**ABSENT:** Edward Bertolino, Trustee

**STAFF:** Marianne Gallagher, Director  
Shibu Abraham, Facilities & Finance Manager  
Kelly Corrado, Administrative Assistant

**GUEST:** Ralph Sabatini, Trustee-Emeritus

**I. INTRODUCTORY**

a. Meeting Called to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

The *Pledge of Allegiance* was recited.

**II. REVIEW OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Amendments to the *Minutes* of the previous meeting were requested by Zuckerberg and Sasson as follows:

*Zuckerberg’s amendment is as follows:*

*In Section III(a)(ii), the word “may” should be inserted before the word “exceeds” in the first paragraph of the Motion and the “s” removed from the word “exceeds.”*

*The corrected sentence should read as follows: Whereas, the adoption of this 2022 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

Sasson's amendment is as follows:

*In Section III(b)(i), insert the words "as an alternative to VMDO should VMDO not meet budget objectives" in the fourth paragraph, at the end of the third sentence, following the word "Associates."*

*The corrected sentence should read as follows: "In comparing the two architectural proposals, Sasson urged the Board to consider Lothrop Associates as an alternative to VMDO should VMDO not meet budget objectives."*

A discussion followed.

Secretary Axelrod presented to the Board for acceptance the proposed *Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of September 17, 2020*, as amended.

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

*RESOLVED, that the Board accept the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of September 17, 2020, as amended.*

The Resolution was passed with six in favor (Zuckerberg, against; Bertolino, absent). (RM#1-10/2020)

### III. REPORTS

#### a. Personnel and Finance Committee (O'Hanlon, Chair):

##### i. Financial Report of September 30, 2020, and Warrant #3:

Treasurer O'Hanlon reported that the Library's finances this month are a bit lower than usual due to fewer invoices received this month.

O'Hanlon presented to the Board for approval the *Financial Report of September 30, 2020, and Warrant #3*.

- Upon motion made by O'Hanlon and duly seconded by Zuckerberg, it was:

*RESOLVED, that the Board approve Warrant #3 in the amount of \$286,978.*

The Resolution was passed by all those present (Bertolino, absent). (RM#2-10/2020)

Treasurer O’Hanlon also reported that the tax check from the *Clarkstown Central School District* should be arriving sometime this month.

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

i. Tree Maintenance:

Sasson reported that several trees on the Library’s grounds need pruning. *Facilities Manager Abraham* will arrange for the landscaping contractor to complete the work.

ii. Solar Panels:

Sasson reported that the solar panels on the Library’s rooftop are aging. *Facilities Manager Abraham* will research replacement costs and possible opportunities for profit-sharing with the solar panel company.

iii. Redesign Project:

Director Gallagher reported that *Architect Consultant Donald MacDonald* spoke with *VMDO Architect Jim Kovach* regarding the contract.

Representatives from *OLA Consulting Engineers* and *Consigli Construction Company* will tour the Library tomorrow (October 16) in order to view the HVAC and the facilities.

Sasson reported that the project timeline consists of several phases, including *Conceptual, Design Development, Construction Documents, and Bidding*.

Gallagher reported that the *Concept Plan* is ready for submission to the *Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)*.

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

Morena had nothing to report.

d. Legal Affairs Committee (Axelrod, Chair):

Axelrod had nothing to report.

e. Nominating Committee (Sasson, Chair):

Sasson reported that two people had submitted an *Application for Trustee of the Board*. The *Committee* interviewed each applicant, who had very impressive credentials. Since the three incumbent trustees have chosen to run for re-election, the Board has decided to endorse the incumbents (*Bertolino, Morena, and O’Hanlon*). The applicants were notified of the Board’s decision and encouraged to run for *Trustee* via the petition method, if they choose.

Copies of the *Petition for Trustee of the Board* are available at the Library and on the Library’s website. The deadline to submit a *Petition* to the Library’s *Administration Office* is by 4:45 p.m. on Wednesday, November 11. The *Trustee Election* will be held on Wednesday, December 9, from 9 a.m.-9 p.m.

f. Negotiating Committee (Sasson, Chair):

Sasson reported that the *Committee* meeting scheduled for today (October 15) had been postponed to October 19 in order to allow for further review of the proposed *VMDO Contract* by the members of the *Negotiating Committee*.

g. President’s Report (Berger):

President Berger had nothing to report.

h. Director’s Report (Gallagher):

Director Gallagher referred to her written report. In addition, Gallagher also reported on the following:

i. Temporary Adjustments to Library Service:

Gallagher reported that due to *Finkelstein Memorial Library’s* recent closure mandated by New York State since *Finkelstein* had been identified as a facility located within a *COVID-19 Red Zone*, as well as two other local libraries decisions to return to servicing their communities via *Curbside Only* because of *Finkelstein’s* closure, the *New City Library* has temporarily returned to *Curbside Only*, as well, in order to safely serve its patrons and to protect staff.

On Monday, October 19, the Library will re-open to the public with tighter controls in place regarding occupancy limits. The situation will be monitored closely as it develops.

**IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

a. FY2022 Budget Hearing:

Director Gallagher reported that the *FY2022 Budget Hearing* will be held on Tuesday, November 24, via video conferencing hosted by the *West Nyack Library*.

**V. NEW BUSINESS**

a. Board Communications (Axelrod, Chair):

Secretary Axelrod had nothing to report.

b. RCLS 2021 Operating Budget:

Director Gallagher briefly explained the operating budget of the *Ramapo Catskill Library System (RCLS)* as it relates to its member libraries. Gallagher presented to the Board for acceptance the *RCLS 2021 Operating Budget*.

- Upon motion made by Zuckerberg and duly seconded by Axelrod, it was:

RESOLVED, *that the Board accept the RCLS 2021 Operating Budget.*

The Resolution was passed by all those present (Bertolino, absent). (RM#3-10/2020)

**VI. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comments were offered.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

- Upon motion made by Sasson and duly seconded by Voce, it was:

RESOLVED, *that the Board adjourn the meeting.*

The Resolution was passed by all those present (Bertolino, absent). (RM#4-10/2020)

Meeting was adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Submitted by Robert Axelrod, Secretary  
Board of Trustees  
NEW CITY LIBRARY  
October 19, 2020

RA/kc