

Saugerties Public Library  
Regular Board Meeting  
Date: October 9, 2025

**Present:** Trustees Yosefa Karchmar, Charlotte Herscher, Alice Graves, Valentina Kielland, Timothy Scott, Ken Goldberg, Rebecca Lang, Teresa Giordano, Kerry McQuaide

**Excused:** Paul VanBenschoten, Erin Poll

**Staff:** Director Jennifer Russell

**Public Attendees:** Ray Rebholz, Julie Misiano, LeeAnn Thornton, (Ken's niece) Jennifer London

**Meeting called to order at 6:18 by Tim Scott**

Introduction of new trustees.

**Public Comment:**

Ray: Welcome new board members. Upcoming general meeting 10.20.25 November 19th annual wine and cheese and a Panic at the Disco Murder Mystery.

LeeAnn: Welcome new members. Talking about the popularity of the library and the positive changes brought by Jennifer and the board. She directs people to our website for free activities.

**Unfinished Business:**

Signed oaths of office, conflict of interest and ethics forms.

Goodbye to outgoing trustees. Julie, Robert (absent), Nina (absent). Thank you and they will be missed.

Yosefa: Thanked Julie for her hard work.

**Front Gardens:** The independent contractor that the library had worked with left and we need work done on the front and side gardens. Heard from 5 people, requested bids from 4 but only got bids from 2. John Lee from Native Landscape gave a large bid of \$15,280 broken down into phases. Phase 1 and 2 would be the basics of what we need, and that would come to \$10,780. Rachel Summerson from ancient gardens offered a bid of \$4,325. She would clean up and plant some plants. Teresa wants to know if it would be done in stages, into the new year. Jen says there is money in the lawns & grounds budget line that should be spent in 2025.. Maybe have her come back next year for maintenance but we aren't there yet. Worry is the dryness. Jen would like this approved now so we can get set during the weather. Kerry says you can plant until the ground is frozen. The only issue is the drought.

Motion to approve expenditure: Ken

Second: Tim

All in favor and motion carries.

**Hiring of New staff:** See Director's report. Callie Houghtaling, a part time employee, reduced her 20 hours to 4 a week. Jane Vecchio, also a part time employee, asked to take the Friday hours. . That left 10 hours to be filled.. The library advertised a 10 hour position. Interviewed 3 people and hired Marie Molloy who has started. Denise Dourdeville was a long term sub. She has resigned. Ellen Gastman was hired as a replacement. Both were hired as clerks.

## **New Business:**

**Nominating committee:** Yosefa shared the committee assignments.

Finance committee: Ken, Charlotte

Policy: Erin, Becky, Valentina

Outreach: Teresa, Kerry

Facilities: Paul and Yosefa

**Vote for Executive Board**

Tim as president-Brought to floor and voted all in favor

Paul as VP-Brought to floor and voted all in favor

Becky as secretary-Brought to floor and voted all in favor

Charlotte as Treasurer-Ken was on the slate to be voted on but he nominates Charlotte because of restrictions in the by-laws regarding how many times a member may be on the executive board as he was on the executive board in the past , Brought to floor and voted all in favor

**Secretary's Report:**

Minutes from last meeting: Tim's name was listed incorrectly as was Ray's. Spelling in VanBenschoten.

Tim moves to accept

Charlotte seconds, all in favor.

Treasurer's report: The Treasurer and President renewed our 6th month CD. Interest has gone down. 2.980 for 6 months. Will open a Capital Fund account so we can put aside money when we can for bigger facilities projects such as the elevator computer upgrade. The bank is trying to get better interest rates.

**Bills:** \$17,613.38 is the amount of this month's bill. Charlotte made motion and Ken seconded, and all were in favor.

**Director's Report:**

Baker & Taylor: Jennifer and Kristina discovered that we have 174 books on back order. Then we discovered that Baker & Taylor is being bought out by another corporation, but apparently that fell through and B & T is closing in January 2026. Ingram books and Brodart are other two suppliers. Jen is looking to see who would be better. We have bought some of the back ordered books through Amazon but Jen would like to buy through Inquiring Minds. She isn't sure if we can go through the local bookstore due to NYS procurement regulations. Amazon is cheaper so that is usually where we

have to go. Our Procurement Policy does allow us to spend \$2,000 as we wish. May use some funds to get some from Inquiring Minds in the time between now and when we sign up for a new company.

Ken: What's the difference in price from buying from amazon and Inquiring Minds? Jen: I.M. has given a 40% discount on softcovers, but hardcovers would be less than that. Amazon's discount is 40-45%.

One additional issue with either is getting the digital cataloging data to MHLS. They are asking for volunteers to help figure out how to get books into the system.

Ken: If digital purchase from amazon: they still own the product. Does that exist for physical items?

Jen: Yes we do own physical items.

Jen: Digital items: hoopla (we own none of that) Overdrive / Libby: digital books most often have an end date where they disappear from our collection. If we want to continue to offer the digital book, we have to purchase it again. Some digital books can be up to \$200.

Ken recommends we purchase from I.M. and won't get as many but go local.

Tiffany has bought all backordered adult books from Amazon.

If the other librarians still have stuff to buy, we could use I.M, up to \$2,000. Recommended by many members to go through IM.

### **UCLA Annual Meeting:**

Yosefa, Terea, Erin and Jennifer went to the Ulster County Library Association meeting. Yosefa and Teresa went too and they found it very inspiring. Jen will let us know if there are more times for people to gather.

## **ALA Proclamation on Banned Books**

Tim: Wants to discuss a proclamation on banned books week.

Motion to discuss this. Alice seconds. All in favor.

-Banned books have a new meaning this year. Many groups in NYS are active in attempting to ban books. The American Library Association offered some language about not caving to pressure to ban books. No books have been requested to be banned in our library yet but they have expressed concern over some programs. We have a policy and procedure that would be activated if someone requested banning a book. Ken mentioned that the MHLS has some of these banned books in the system, but may not be in specific libraries. They are accepting donations to purchase banned books to get in the system. Can get info on this from Ken. Tim reads the proclamation. He moves that we approve this proclamation and to have it available and on display. Charlotte seconds. All in favor.

## **Committee Reports:**

**Finance:** see report.

Their meeting will remain on the third Monday of the month. The next meeting will be October 20th at 6:00 pm.

**Personnel/Policy:** 9/24 at 6:00 and looked at:

- 1) Trustee Education Policy-Tim motion to adopt amended policy and Alice seconds, all in favor.
- 2) Community room use policy: no changes made
- 3) Friends Group Policy: No changes.. Motion to approve review by Tim, seconded by Teresa and all in favor.

**Facilities:** 9/16 6pm  
See minutes for FMI  
Oct 21st next meeting

**Outreach:** Did not meet

Teresa is the new chair. Three ideas:

- 1) Celebrate libraries -what libraries do and what board does
- 2) Community shares event.
- 3) Clothing swap

Next meeting: 10/27 at 6

Next Board Meeting 11/13 5:30 social time and 6pm meeting

Motion to adjourn at 7:18 by Tim Scott;

Seconded by Charlotte

Passes unanimously.

Submitted by Becky Lang