

## **Saugerties Public Library Regular Board Meeting**

**Date:** November 13, 2025

**Present:** Trustees Yosefa Karchmar, Alice Graves, Valentina Kielland, Timothy Scott, Ken Goldberg, Teresa Giordano, Kerry McQuaide, Paul VanBenschoten, Erin Poll

**Excused:** Charlotte Herscher, Rebecca Lang

**Staff:** Director Jennifer Russell

**Public Attendees:**

**Meeting called to order at 6:10 by Tim Scott**

**Public comment** – Tim: Described the Friend’s “Murder at the Disco” event (someone was stabbed then a disco ball fell on his head!). It was a fun event. Successful, well attended, well organized.

### **New Business**

- 1) Jen: said there are changes coming up with the library’s accounting company, WZ Accounting. WZ does the accounting for multiple libraries because they are experts on how to comply with NY State regulations. They are raising their prices across the board. They want to continue their relationship with SPL. They offered an \$1800 increase for 2026, which is well below the standard increase. Do we want to amend the 2026 budget to include this \$1800 bump up?  
It was discussed and all agreed that it’s worth amending the budget. Paul made the motion, Teresa seconded. Amending the 2026 budget to include an additional \$1800 for WZ passed unanimously.
- 2) Jen proposed doing a group trustee training in person at the library before the end of the year. 12/1, 12/2, 12/5, and 12/10 were offered as dates. 12/1, and 12/2 worked for most people. Jen will send an email to nail down a date and what training session we will watch. Another trustee training session will take place in the Spring.
- 3) Jen brought up the \$10,000 Carnegie Foundation Award and there was a brief discussion about how to use the money. Maybe on restoring the library’s original steps or for an upcoming Outreach event.
- 4) Tim described the MHLS Annual Meeting and Banned Books event at Bardavon. Margaret Atwood, who has faced censorship issues, was interviewed by Joe

Donahue from WAMC. Her interview may be available on line. ~~The MHL annual Meeting was~~

## **SECRETARIE'S REPORT**

September and October minutes were noted. Tim made a motion to approve the minutes. Yosefa seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Tim makes motion to pay bills \$17,613.38. Alice seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- 1) Jen said that we are getting a donation of \$16,830.27.
- 2) SPL has opened an account with Ingram books as our previous book distributor, Baker & Taylor is going out of business. Amazon is being discussed as a retailer. Amazon is interested in getting into the library book distributor business. One of the disadvantages is that they are unable to put metadata about the books directly into the library system. Pros and cons of Amazon were discussed. Although the Board would prefer to purchase from local booksellers or a company that only distributes library books, there may be no choice. New York State could mandate that libraries have to go with the cheapest seller, and that might be Amazon.
- 3) Rachel Summerson of Ancient Gardens and Design has cleared the library garden but did not plant. She said planting should happen in the spring. There is money budgeted for 2025 that may need to be used in 2026. We may make a motion to defer that money to next year.
- 4) The Halloween Costume Swap was very successful.

## **FINANCE REPORT**

The Financial Committee met on 10/20. Time and Charlotte renewed the library's 6-month CD for an additional 6 months. The CD yields 2.98%. We will discuss renewal before it is renewed again in six months. The committee will meet again on 1/2/5, if they meet in December.

## **PERSONNEL AND POLICY REPORT**

The Personnel and Policy Committee met on 10/22. The Board reviewed changes the committee made to the Fund Balance Policy and the Trustee Training Policy. The changes were noted. Tim made a motion to accept the changes for the Fund Balance Policy and the Trustee Training Policy. Erin seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

The next Personnel and Policy Committee meeting is TBD.

## **FACILITIES COMMITTEE REPORT**

Paul said that the library received a letter from the Village that stated it is unknown whether the library's water pipes contain lead. Paul is checking to see if the Village is responsible for inspecting them.

Michael Murphy talked to Jen about the converting to LED lighting. Paul will follow up with him.

Sandy replaced some parts and did some paint touch up.  
The next Facilities Committee meeting will be on 12/13 at 6pm.

## **OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT**

Teresa reported on the progress of the Celebrate Libraries event. The committee is deciding whether it should be a two day event. Films about librarians will precede the event.

The next Outreach Committee meeting will be on 11/24 at 6pm.

**The next Board meeting will be on 12/11. Board members will bring a dish to share. The meeting will begin at 5:30 for social time**

**Time made a motion to adjourn at 8:08pm. The motion passed unanimously.**