

**SACHEM PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
February 13, 2025
5:00 P.M.**

The regular meeting of the Sachem Public Library Board of Trustees was attended by Robert Winowitch, Diane Longo, Marguerite Barone, Susan Tychnowicz, Thomas Lohr, Neely McCahey, Kristen Stroh and Sandra Bartalis.

The Board members previewed the board meeting items on the agenda electronically prior to the meeting. Trustee Robert Winowitch reviewed all warrants with the Director before having them presented to the Board for their approval.

The meeting was called to order at 5:04 p.m.

The meeting began with a pledge of allegiance.

The Board adopted the agenda. (Lohr, Tychnowicz; unanimous)

Public Expression/Participation

A community member attended the board meeting.

Minutes

The Board approved the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting on January 21, 2025. (Tychnowicz, Longo; unanimous)

The minutes of the Executive Session of the January 21, 2025 Board Meeting were approved. (Longo, Barone; unanimous)

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report for January 2025 in the amount of \$6,293,856.66 was approved. (Barone, Lohr; unanimous)

Payroll and Related Expenses

The Payroll and Related Expenses for January 2025 in the amount of \$697,039.55 were approved. (Lohr, Tychnowicz; unanimous)

Payroll Warrant #23 dated January 1, 2025 in the amount of \$32,155.80 was approved. (Tychnowicz, Longo; unanimous)

Payroll Warrant #24 dated January 2, 2025 in the amount of \$16,904.30 was approved. (Longo, Barone; unanimous)

Payroll Warrant #25 dated January 16, 2025 in the amount of \$198,590.71 was approved. (Barone, Lohr; unanimous)

Payroll Warrant #27 dated January 30, 2025 in the amount of \$25,048.92 was approved. (Lohr, Tychnowicz; unanimous)

The January 2025 Payroll Summary was approved. (Tychnowicz, Longo; unanimous)

Schedule of Bills

The February 13, 2025 Schedule of Bills, warrant #26 in the amount of \$220,806.59 was approved. (Longo, Barone; unanimous)

Director's Report

The Board reviewed the Director's report with interest. Ms. McCahey announced to the Board that Sachem Public Library received first place as Long Island's Best Public Library for 2025. She reported to the Board that the Discovery Grove Department submitted an application to the Pied Piper award but unfortunately lost to another participant. We will schedule Discovery Grove to a presentation about its programs and developments to the Board at a future meeting. She also stated that one of Sachem's librarians will be presenting at the Long Island Library Conference. Ms. McCahey reported to that the Patron Services department successfully avoided the loss of library cardholders during the annual SCLS purge. She gave an update to the Board of the current status of the fiber network installation. Ms. McCahey shared details of her upcoming presentations at the Town of Brookhaven and the Holbrook Chamber of Commerce. A discussion took place regarding the reduction of the Farmingville Flick events from four dates to three dates because of the increased costs.

Assistant Director's Report

Mrs. Stroh reported about the success of Sachem Library's language learning programs and services. The Director stated she received notice from the French instructor that she would be taking an indefinite hiatus.

Library Statistics

The Board reviewed all the library statistics with interest. Database usage and downloads reached all-time high level according to the latest statistics.

SCLS Board Report

Mrs. Tychnowicz distributed a few handouts that the Director of SCLS handed out to the trustees at the last SCLS Board meeting. She highlighted an article featured in the New York Times, "*Starbucks Cracks Down: No Latte, No Lounging.*" She made it clear that Starbucks is not the issue, but she pointed out that places that are discouraging people stop from coming

together and it may shift libraries to become a gathering spot. She also reported to the Board that SCLS gave a detailed review of their financial reports. They explained and elaborated on the different lines of the report, which was very informative to the old and the new trustees. She stated that the Governor had released the NYS Proposed Budget and it included a modest increase in general library aid and a significant cut in construction aid. She encourages all to promote and to sign up to become an advocate. Mrs. Tychnowicz also stated that SCLS has a new display with monitors displaying solar output and information. The display shows energy consumption reports which shows economic returns and the decrease of the carbon footprint as a result of the work they are doing in conjunction with the sustainable library certification.

Old Business

The Board reviewed the revised Meeting Room Policy and Regulations.

The Board reviewed the revised Community Group Application for Meeting Room Use.

New Business

On the Director's recommendation, the Board approved the FY2025/2026 Proposed Budget as presented, the transfer of fund balance for use in the proposed budget. (Tychnowicz, Longo; unanimous)

The Board of the Sachem Public Library passed the resolution that approved the override of the tax cap for the proposed 2025/2026 fiscal year budget. The proposed 2025/2026 tax levy is in the amount of \$11,851,431 which is a 4.2% increase over the current fiscal year budget and 2.2% (or \$261,124) over the tax cap. (Longo, Barone; unanimous)

On the Director's recommendation the Board approved the 2025 annual contract for AfterDark Landscape Lighting, Inc. at 273 Walt Whitman Road, Suite 347 in Huntington, NY 11746 for a low voltage landscaping lighting service agreement for an amount of \$12,400. (Winowitch, Lohr; unanimous)

The Board approved the New York State Report for 2024. (Winowitch, Lohr; unanimous)

The Board approved the Disposal of Equipment. (Lohr, Tychnowicz; unanimous)

Other

The next Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 18, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.

The Library Budget Hearing will be held on Tuesday, March 25, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. in the Children's Program Room.

The Library's Budget Vote and Trustee Election will be held on Tuesday, April 8, 2025, 9:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Executive Session

None

Personnel Report

The Personnel Report was approved. (Longo, Barone; unanimous)

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m. (Winowitch, Longo; unanimous)

Respectfully submitted,

Marguerite Barone