
Vernon Public Library Special Meeting

Wednesday, 6.26.2024

Attendees/Absentees

Lori Klopfer, *President*
Kaylee Sierson, *Vice President*
Carla, Lince, *Secretary - ABSENT*
Melanie Cattelo, *Treasurer*
Rich Lagoy, *Trustee*
Amanda Moyer, *Director*

Kaylee Sierson acted on behalf of the Secretary.

PUBLIC

The following members of the public community were present:

Wonda Bruchis - on behalf of Mid York Library System
Robin Vanderwall
Zoey Morrissey
Paula Iannello
Andy Catello


Call to Order

The Meeting was called to order by Lori Klopfer at 6:10 p.m.

Discussion and Vote of Information Given by DLD

Lori Klopfer presented to the board and the public that DLD is giving the VPL board of trustees the steps to dissolve.

Kaylee Sierson asked if we were past the deadline for a 414 vote. Wonda Bruchis noted that the deadline for the 414 vote had been passed.



Rich Lagoy asked what the timeframe looks like to close. Lori Klopfer stated that we would need to petition, have three-fourths of our board sign the petition or move to a resolution, there would need to be an affidavit of the debts, and any taxes paid. This needed to be completed by July in order to go to the board of regents in September.

Rich Lagoy noted that the insurance had been paid through the month of December. Why not proceed to stay open until December. Rich Lagoy noted that he had spoken to a state legislature about the state of the library and was searching out any sort of government funding. The state legislature's office spoke about grants specifically for libraries in the amount of \$20,000. Their office needed a few more days to evaluate and gather everything together; they asked if we had closed, our hours of operation, etc.


Kaylee Sierson asked if we could stay open on the government funding until next year and try for the 414 vote. Wonda Bruchis noted that there is no more funding left in the library; and that we would have to keep funds flowing until next November. The petition for a 414 begins in February.

Rich Lagoy noted that he would say 50% of the community didn't even know the library was in trouble. Melanie Catello noted that eventually things were going to crash. She stated that we would be fundraising just to pay the bills. We need to transfer \$5,000 minimum a month to survive. Lori Klopfer asked what we are even able to offer compared to others. Kaylee Sierson voiced that she did not believe we had given it our best efforts. Melanie Catello noted that bills would be coming in. She would rather play it safe and donate the money.

DLD is working with Sherrill to service the area around. It was suggested that we donate our books to Sherrill Library and our funds to Midyork. Kaylee Sierson asked about the option of approaching the Sherrill library and speaking with their board about a merger with them as the 'parent library'.

Kaylee Sierson also noted that local government funding was declined by one of the library board members.

Wonda Bruchis noted that she has a large stack of complaints on the Vernon Public Library. Lori Klopfer commented that when we reopened after COVID the community members that went to Sherrill library didn't return to Vernon. Wonda Bruchis stated that



the Vernon Public Library has been a bad situation for a long time. She has closed 4 libraries in Louisiana. Reality is reality. You have to pay for the lights, salaries, etc. She also noted that our current director is going to be moving on in December.

Lori Klopfer noted that she does not feel a 414 vote is the right path because we would be taxing Oneida County residents where the tax bracket is much higher. She doesn't feel comfortable asking that.

Paula Ianello spoke that she felt Sherrill voters felt obligated to vote 'yes' on the 259 vote of June because they had received tax payer dollars from Vernon residents for the Sherrill library.


Melanie Catello voiced that she supported the vote to close the Vernon Public Library.

Kaylee Sierson asked that the vote to close the library be tabled until our regular monthly meeting in July. Kaylee had a few questions for the lawyer 1. Could the building be gifted to any non profit or did it need to go to an educational non profit? 2. Did the funds from selling the building need to go to an educational non profit? A motion to table the vote until the July meeting was made 1st by Kaylee Sierson and 2nd by Rich Lagoy.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m. was 1st made by Kaylee Sierson and 2nd by Rich Lagoy. Lori Klopfer asked if all were in favor. Melanie Catello said she was not. She proceeded to state that we had already taken these steps to try and keep the library open and that she only joined the library board in September to see this through and the library closed. She stated that if we did not vote to close the library tonight then she would be resigning. Melanie Catello verbally gave her resignation and dismissed herself.

Lori Klopfer stated that this was a painful situation and she didn't mean to make anyone feel uncomfortable or forced to make a decision. Rich Lagoy noted that if closing the library was what the board wanted then he would give his vote. Kaylee Sierson asked Wonda Bruchis if she truly believed that there was nothing else that could be done to save the library. Wonda Bruchis noted that she didn't think there was anything else that could be done. Kaylee Sierson stated that if that is what the community wants then she would vote to close the library. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made again at 7:15 p.m.



(Let it be noted that the vote to close the library was not properly made as the meeting had been adjourned at 7:00 p.m. and the added votes were made after the adjournment)

Next Regular Scheduled Monthly Board Meeting

The next Scheduled board meeting shall be held at the Vernon Public Library on July 10, at 6:00 p.m.