

Georgia Public Library
1697 Ethan Allen Highway
Georgia, Vermont 05454
(802) 524-4643
www.georgiapubliclibraryvt.org
gplvt@yahoo.com



Library Trustees
Terry Cleveland, Chair
Sara Walker, Vice Chair
Kollene Caspers, Secretary
Bob Giroux, Treasurer
Deb Mann, Trustee at Large

Georgia Public Library Trustee Budget Meeting
Thursday, December 12, 2024 4:00pm
Location: Georgia Public Library
MINUTES

Trustees Present: Kollene Caspers, Terry Cleveland, Bob Giroux, Deb Mann & Sara Walker (via Zoom)
Staff Present: Bridget Stone
Guests Present: Carolyn Branagan

1. Call to order: 4:04pm
2. Additions, Deletions, or changes to the Agenda
 - Amend October 9, 2024 Meeting Minutes to include motion of out Executive Session
3. Amend Meeting Minutes from October 9, 2024. GPL Trustee Meeting Minutes to include the following: "Motion to approve library director B. Stone taking paid partial leave of absence to be revisited at the next meeting, if needed. Motion made by D. Mann, seconded by R. Giroux. All in favor."
4. 2025 GPL Operating Budget
 - T. Cleveland recapped the December 2, 2024 Selectboard meeting for budget discussion with GPL Library Trustees.
 - B. Giroux explained the changes to future impact fee calculations, that will result in more funds allocated to the library to accrue in 2025, for distribution in 2026.
 - Discussion on alternatives to cutting the budget, including grants, fundraisers and using volunteers in lieu of paid employees. B. Stone has explained her position on why volunteers cannot be one of the minimum two workers in place while the library is open.
 - K. Caspers stated the GPL needs written language explained within our GPL policies if we claim there is a policy of two-persons per shift in place.
 - D. Mann said the Selectboard needs to understand the library has a history of being underfunded.
 - B. Stone is concerned with the budget cuts for online/electronic resources. \$6,000 calls into question GMLC membership which allows Libby access, will discontinue Hoopla service, and threatens providing for the website and Wowbrary.
 - K. Caspers suggested the GPL discontinue using the Weebly website and utilize the Town of Georgia website. B. Stone stated there was not significant savings to warrant the change and cited concerns regarding autonomy and nimbleness.
 - Trustees examined the differences between the initial proposed 2025 Operating Budget, the 3% budget as requested by the Selectboard, and Budget #3- a compromised budget of \$189,080, keeping the library open 37 hours a week while maintaining a budget for books/materials and keeping a full-time librarian with benefits.
 - T. Cleveland said Budget #3 should be presented to the Selectboard, which will show a compromise between the preferred budget of the GPL and the budget requested by the Selectboard.

- C. Branagan recognized a history of underfunding and suggested the library reach out the community to garner support, share our programming and materials collections, and showcase our presence in the community. (C. Branagan left at 4:55pm.)
- B. Giroux will prepare Budget #3 in tandem with Budget #1, showing the preferred budget compared to the compromised budget. This budget will not include the \$5,000 rise in health insurance, impact fees and grants.

5pm Zoom session ended for the Selectboard meeting.

- Discussion over line items and distribution of funds.
- D. Mann made a motion to present Budget #3 to the Selectboard with separate impact fees, and \$5,000 support for medical insurance. T. Cleveland seconded. All in favor.

5. Executive Session

6. Adjourn

- B. Giroux made a motion to adjourn at 5:19 p.m. All in favor.