

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

Georgia Public Library Trustee Emergency Meeting
Friday, November 22, 2024 2:30pm
Location: Georgia Public Library
MINUTES

Trustees Present: Kollene Caspers, Terry Cleveland, Bob Giroux, Sara Walker & Deb Mann
Staff Present: Bridget Stone

1. Call to order: 2:35pm
2. Additions, Deletions, or changes to the Agenda
 - Approval of minutes from 11/13/2024 Trustee Meeting
3. 2025 GPL Operating Budget
 - Introduction of the new proposed 2025 GPL Operating Budget with a 3% increase, as requested by the Town of Georgia Selectboard.
 - B. Stone explained the challenges of having to cut the budget and how to balance the needs of the community with what can be offered given the budget.
 - The financial cuts to budget line items include books, programming, online resources and hours the library will be in operation, based on a much lower budget.
 - Discussion on alternatives to cutting the budget, including the staff hours and number of staff scheduled at the same time, using volunteers in lieu of paid employees, and looking for additional funding opportunities.
 - Inflationary trends in the price of health care, books, and the desire to pay staff a livable wage, beyond the control of the library, are line items that eat into the operating budget of the library to the potential detriment of books and programming. This, together with the number of grants that had been plentiful 2020-2024 that are now not available, make running the library on a budget of only 3% increase a hardship.
 - S. Walker suggested the GPL Library Trustees meet with the Selectboard to explain these challenges and work together to create a workable budget.
 - Trustees examined the differences between the initial proposed 2025 Operating Budget, a 3% budget as requested by the Selectboard, and identified the areas in the budget that could be a compromise between the two.
 - T. Cleveland will reach out to the Selectboard to schedule the peer-to-peer meeting.
4. Approve the minutes of the 11/13/24 Library Trustee Meeting
 - Approved with changes to the description of the beading event, as well as reference to and addition of the handout for Capital Improvements discussion.
 - S. Walker made the motion; B. Giroux seconded, all in favor.
5. Executive Session
6. Adjourn
 - B. Giroux made a motion to adjourn at 3:49 p.m. All in favor.