

**Valleyview Library Board
Special 2024 Budget Meeting
Minutes
Monday, December 18, 2023 @ 5:30 p.m.**

In attendance: Adam Norris, Kelli Reimer, Debbie Stewart, Ken Wittig, Debbie Wedel, Louis Joseph, Judy Smith, Scott Biggin via Zoom, Kerri Danner, Elizabeth Griffiths. The meeting was recorded on ZOOM.

Guests: Tom Burton, Chair MD Greenview Library Board

1. **Call to order**– Meeting was called to order by Adam Norris at 5:35 p.m.
2. **Special Meeting Agenda** – Adam Norris stated the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the 52% budget cut to the Town of Valleyview Annual Appropriation to operate the Library for 2024, and communications with the Town of Valleyview.
3. **Open Discussion Summary/Notes:**
 - Kerri Danner inquired on the rationale for cutting the library budget by 52%.
 - Ken Wittig replied that the Valleyview Municipal Library is funded at a considerably higher rate than Fox Creek, Debolt or Grande Cache and that Town Council research showed overlap of services with other agencies such as FCSS.
 - Kerri Danner and Elizabeth Griffiths both responded that there is very little overlap of programs and services.
 - Louis Joseph commented that the cuts felt targeted.
 - Judy Smith commented on the timing of the cuts, that it was like a bomb being dropped with no prior warning.
 - Adam Norris felt that there has been poor communication from the town on the cut and the timing of the cut.
 - Ken Wittig commented that Town Council had some concerns with the communication between the Library Board and Town Council over the past few years. The Board and staff as a whole said that from the Library side, the communication with our previous Trustee Tanya Boman was very good and they had been happy with their representation.
 - Kerri Danner commented that Town Council has been provided our financials each month and that if there was a problem with the budget, the Town should have contacted us much earlier.
 - Debbie Stewart commented that she had concerns about the lack of communication about the cut and allegations of program overlaps in the community.
 - Debbie Wedel asked Ken Wittig whether the new school was a consideration for Town Council since the Library Board is against moving the library into the new school, she feels the notice about the cut is very last minute.
 - Tom Burton, Chair of the MD of Greenview Library Board talked about current agreements between the Library Board, MD Library Board and Town Council.
 - Ken Wittig replied that he will bring forward the agreements with Mayor Lymburner and that the Library Board should send a delegation to Council.
 - Adam Norris agreed that the Board should send a delegation to Council.


- Kelli Reimer said the news was shocking, especially in light of all the partnerships and agencies that work with the library and utilize the building.
- Elizabeth Griffiths explained that the library staff work with community agencies like Walking with Families, FCSS, etc. to avoid duplication of programs and services and that the groups we are working with are not serviced by other agencies.
- Louis Joseph asked if Town Council is even aware of the extent of social services the Library offers to vulnerable populations and the barriers the library helps remove or for many people. He asked if there are areas that we can cut and still allow the library to serve the community.
- Kerri Danner stated that most costs are out of our control such as power, utilities and that insurance rates have greatly increased. The majority of library funding is spent on staffing. Cutting the budget, will mean cutting staff, programs and services. She reminded that Board that for safety reasons there should always be at least 2 staff people working during open hours.

Adam Norris thanked Trustees, Staff and Tom Burton for attending and providing their input. and thanked Ken Wittig for hearing the concerns of Board and Staff and taking them back to Council. Scott Biggin made a **MOTION** to have Chair Adam Norris work on a communications strategy and to contact Mayor Vern Lymburner to arrange a meeting between Town Council and the Library Board to discuss the 2024 Budget. Debbie Wedel seconded the motion. All in favour. Carried.

Tom Burton presented a cheque to the Board in the amount of \$125,000 for the 2024 Funding Appropriation on behalf of the MD of Greenview Library Board and a gift of holiday treats for the Board and Staff. Debbie Wedel made a **MOTION** to recognize the gift and thank the MD of Greenview Library Board. All in favour. Carried.

4. **Next Meeting:** **Wednesday, January 17, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. (Potluck)**

5. **Adjournment:** Judy Smith made a **MOTION** to adjourn at 6:23 p.m. All in favour. Adjourned.



 Chair



 Secretary

Jan 17/24

 Date

Jan 17/24

 Date