

**Valleyview Library Board  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, January 17, 2024 @ 5:30 p.m.**

**In attendance:** Adam Norris; Kelli Reimer; Debbie Stewart; Ken Wittig; Scott Biggin; Debbie Wedel; Judy Smith; Kerri Danner; Liz Griffiths

**Delegation:** Mayor Vern Lymburner, Town of Valleyview; Councilor Samantha Steinke; Tyler Olsen, Reeve-MD of Greenview #16

**Guests:** Travis Werklund, Amanda Roy, Katrin Sannig, Drew Melvin, Monica Drozda, Skyler MacPherson

**Regrets:** Louis Joseph

1. **Call to order**– Meeting was called to order by Chair Adam Norris at 5:32 p.m.
2. **Welcome Guests** – Adam Norris welcomed guests from both the Town and MD Council as well as guests from the public.
3. **Acceptance of Agenda** – Debbie Wedel made a MOTION to accept the agenda with change in item order bringing forward 7.1-7.3 Budget/Operations Discussion forward to 5.0, moving Financial Reports and Library Manager’s Reports to 6.0 and 7.0 on the agenda. All in favour. Carried.
4. **Adoption of Minutes** – Debbie Stewart made a MOTION to accept the minutes of the November 15, 2023 Regular Board Meeting and the December 18, 2023 Special Budget Meeting. All in favour. Carried.
5. **Budget/Operations Discussion**
  - 5.1. MD Greenview #16, Reeve, Tyler Olsen appeared on behalf of the MD to read a letter from MD Councilor, Tom Burton in apology for misspeaking at the December 18, 2023 meeting. Copy of letter attached.
  - 5.2. At the request of Town & MD, guests from the public were excused for an in-camera discussion between the Library Board and Council representatives at 5:44 p.m. The public were brought back into the meeting at 6:37 p.m. Councilor Steinke thanked the Board and said she thought it would be beneficial for Town Council and Library Board to meet again. Mayor Lymburner, Councilor Steinke and Reeve Olsen left the meeting.
  - 5.3. Adam Norris opened the floor to public guests in attendance to allow them to speak regarding the Library budget cut. The following is a brief summary of the public discussion:

Katrin Sannig stated that she would have liked to address her questions to the Mayor, but in his absence, put her questions to Councilor Wittig: 1) Do Towns receive funds earmarked for libraries. Councilor Wittig answered no. 2) How have tax payers been informed of the budget changes? Councilor Wittig answered that the information is publicly available if people request the information.

Amanda Roy asked: 1) If the Town budget is publicly posted. Councilor Wittig responded that the current interim budget is not posted yet and was not certain where to locate past budget

information online. 2) Did the Town discuss the budget cuts previously with the MD? Councilor Wittig answered no.

Monica Drozda inquired: 1) Whether the budget cut will mean cutting staff. Councilor Wittig asked whether library reserve funds could be used to avoid cutting staff and services. Adam Norris responded that to use all reserves would leave the library vulnerable.

Katrin Sannig commented that our Town has been stripped of social services over the past few years, and pointed out that the Library has helped fill many gaps caused by the loss of those programs and services.

Councilor Wittig responded that many areas of the budget have been cut.

Katrin Sannig inquired how the Board will go forward in communicating with our users and the community, and suggested a newsletter or public posting on Facebook and the library website with comments closed to discourage venting or misinformation.

Judy Smith agreed that an Open House would facilitate improved information sharing.

Adam asked guests what they'd like to see for future meetings.

Katrin suggests that the Board and Town meet to work out the budget then have an open house with the public once the budgets are approved and set for 2024.

Adam Norris stated that the budget cuts are a fact and the Board needs to make decisions now and that the Open House should be planned as soon as possible.

Debbie Stewart stated her appreciation of the passion and dedication of Library Manager, Kerri Danner throughout this challenging period.

There was discussion of potential for additional fundraising like applying for a casino or working with the Friends of the Library.

Kelli Reimer made a MOTION to enable Kerri Danner to access up to \$30,000 from Library reserves for the 2024 year to reduce impact of the budget cut (approved budget pending). Debbie Wedel seconded the motion. All in favour. Carried.

Judy Smith made a MOTION to hold an Open House at the Library to let the public know what is happening at the Library. Debbie Wedel seconded the motion. All in favour. Carried. Kerri Danner will begin planning the event for Friday, February 2, 2024 from 4:00 to 6:30 p.m., after which the Board will hold a meeting to discuss the results of the Open House.

Adam Norris will consult with Mayor Lymburner to arrange a special meeting between the Library Board and Town Council prior to the next Council meeting scheduled for Monday, February 12.

As the meeting had run longer than expected, Adam Norris requested a motion for the remaining agenda items: Financial Report; Library Manager's Report; Board Self-Evaluations

and Library Manager Evaluation be tabled until the next meeting. Debbie Stewart made a MOTION to table the remaining agenda items until the next meeting. All in favour. Carried.

Kelli Reimer made a MOTION to discontinue Trustee honorariums. A discussion followed and a suggestion was made to keep honorariums in the budget, but to allow each trustee to decide whether they wished to receive these payments. Kelli Reimer withdrew her motion to discontinue Trustee honorariums.

**6. Next Meetings:**

- February 2, 2024 – Open House 4-6:30 p.m., followed by Special Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m.
- Date to be announced – Meeting between Library Board and Town Council
- Wednesday, February 21, 2024 @ 5:30 p.m. – Regular Board Meeting

**7. Adjournment** – Ken Wittig made a MOTION to adjourn at 7:47 p.m. All in favour. Adjourned.

K. Reimer  
Chair

Debra Wood  
Secretary

Mar 13/24  
Date

April 17, 2024  
Date