

Eric Sharrin:

If you can mute when you're not talking, that'd be great. And Pledge of Allegiance.

All:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Eric Sharrin:

Yeah. Pamela will be sitting this one out. All right. With that said, is there any public ... Yes, Robert's here. Does anybody have any comments?

Eugenia Schatoff:

So, for the members of the public who are present, we do have a question and answer feature, so you're able to enter in any of your comments or questions via two periods, a period in the beginning of the meeting and a period in the end of the meeting where we do go over public comment and question. So, feel free to do so now or you can enter it and it will be read at the end of the meeting. So, I'm not seeing any public comments or questions at this point.

Eric Sharrin:

Okay. Thank you. And I just want to let you know Donna won't be making it, but I wished on behalf of everybody at this meeting for her to feel better and to get well soon. She had to get to the hospital for a procedure today. It was planned. So, everything is okay.

Eric Sharrin:

With that said, let's review the minutes. Has everybody reviewed the minutes? If so, are there any changes, corrections? Marvelous. So, we'll start with March 22nd.

William Morris:

They look fine to me. You want a motion?

Eric Sharrin:

Yes.

William Morris:

Irene had something to say.

Irene D'Anna:

No. I said, "It looks good." I read them.

Eric Sharrin:

Okay. Very good and I think for this one, let me just see. Yes. For this one, we're going to do these separately because ...

Irene D'Anna:

Actually, I had a quick comment on the minutes. Is this ... I know the buildings and ground committee met, so I don't know if that was for the month of March or the month of April.

Eric Sharrin:

One, they wouldn't be in these minutes, per se, unless we had commented during the minutes, so ...

Irene D'Anna:

Okay.

Eugenia Schatoff:

Yep. So, when we go through the agenda, as we're going through committee reports, as I highlighted in my director's report, the dates that the committee met, you can then report on what you guys talked about at your committee meeting. We're reporting on it the preceding month period.

Irene D'Anna:

Got you. Got you. Thank you.

Eric Sharrin:

All right. And okay. And actually, hold on one second. I take it back. Mike was at this meeting because it's the one where we voted Mike in. He started as a guest and ended as a board member. So, with that said, let me just see if everybody was there at the second one. I think we could vote these in all together in one motion since we are all present.

Eric Sharrin:

So, I'd like to go to the April 1st minutes as well and ask if there are any comments, corrections, or otherwise. If not, I'd like a motion to accept the minutes of March 22nd and April 1st. Mike making a motion. Do I have a second? Will is second.

William Morris:

[inaudible 00:04:34]. Hi.

Eric Sharrin:

Maybe I should ask any discussion first. If no discussion, all in favor?

Michael McCue:

Aye.

Eric Sharrin:

Aye.

William Morris:

Aye.

Eric Sharrin:

Okay. And the meeting minutes are accepted. Thank you. All right. Onto the treasurer's report. So, we've read through this. If you can point out any highlights with things to look out for. Magdalena?

Magda Parvulescu:

Yes. Actually, the only highlights and I'm sure I put it in the report, too, is that in the month of March we paid, I would have counted [inaudible 00:05:14] for the preparation of closing the year 2002 and the amount that we paid was 10,200, so nothing out of the ordinary. And also, we received a grant from the state, not a big one, but still \$356, which is payment for the receipt from the state from the constructions project and we stay good as of now. So, we spend the only, almost 62% of the budget, so hopefully, we will meet the budget unless another big expense is coming, which supposedly we should.

Eric Sharrin:

Okay. Hopefully, it's not an unplanned expense coming.

Magda Parvulescu:

No.

Eric Sharrin:

Okay.

Magda Parvulescu:

But still ...

Eric Sharrin:

Very good and thank you. And going through the balance sheet and the awards, does anybody have any questions, any comments?

William Morris:

For once, I have nothing.

Eric Sharrin:

Okay. All right. Take a quick look again. And one thing I forgot to look at was the big spread sheet. Right. It just those two, a lot of adult books purchased this month.

Magda Parvulescu:

I'm sorry. What did you say?

Eric Sharrin:

I was just noticing there were a lot of books purchased this month. In the past, we've had a very low purchase. I guess we caught up a little bit with getting our inventory back up and getting things that are latest and greatest out there. Very good. Otherwise, I don't see anything that really looks out of the ordinary and all right. Who reviewed ... Irene, you've reviewed this month. So, if nobody welcome to make the motion, then we can also ask if anybody has any additional comments to make about the finance report or list of warrants so ... Yes.

Irene D'Anna:

I think when I reviewed it, there was one item, which was the legal bill. Just because it preceded me, I just wanted somebody to go over the items. I don't know if anybody did that or not.

Debra McDermott:

Yeah, I sent it ... Oh, sorry.

Irene D'Anna:

Go ahead.

Debra McDermott:

No, I sent to Donna and she looked it over and she was okay.

Irene D'Anna:

Okay. Very good. So, then I'm all good to go. Everything looked great.

Debra McDermott:

All right.

Eric Sharrin:

Okay. So, Irene, if you'd make the motion to accept the treasury report.

Irene D'Anna:

I'd like to make the motion to accept the treasury report. Anybody second that-

Eric Sharrin:

If I have this ... I asked this-

Irene D'Anna:

Bill?

Eric Sharrin:

Okay. Irene, just for procedure. I asked for the motion. I asked for the second. Personally, I don't want-

Irene D'Anna:

I don't know how this works. Thank you so much.

Eric Sharrin:

No, no. I'm just ... Yeah. You're welcome. You're welcome. Just letting you know that I conduct the meeting as the president.

Irene D'Anna:

I'm [inaudible 00:09:18]. I do.

Eric Sharrin:

No.

Irene D'Anna:

Whether it's correct or right is a different story. Thank you.

Eric Sharrin:

You're welcome. No, it's all a learning process as we go through these.

Irene D'Anna:

Okay.

Eric Sharrin:

So, very good. So, Bill has seconded. Any other comments on the treasury report? Nothing? Mike, nope? Bill, nothing? Okay. Very good. In that case, all in favor.

Michael McCue:

Aye.

Eric Sharrin:

Aye. None opposed. And the treasury report and warrants have been accepted. Statistical reports. Have you reviewed the statistical reports? It's a hard word for me tonight. And does anybody have any comments or any questions?

Male:

Bill had me on mute.

William Morris:

Yeah. Just, I think some of the formulas for the year to dates are backwards, are not correct. Actually, no. That may be me. Let me look again, because it may have been just been me looking at it quickly. On the database stats, it's showing 100% negative change in the usage.

Eric Sharrin:

Which [crosstalk 00:10:53]?

William Morris:

It's, wait ...

Eric Sharrin:

Got it.

William Morris:

4C.

Eric Sharrin:

Got it.

William Morris:

Right. So, there's something wrong with the formulas there.

Eric Sharrin:

Well, if we had 361 searches last year and only 11 searches this year, I don't think it could be the-

William Morris:

No. That's the month. It's a year-to-date change, right.

Eric Sharrin:

Is it a year to date or a year to year?

William Morris:

Well, both are year to date. So, both are wrong. It's not a 100% decline. That would mean we had something in March 2020 and nothing in March 2021. I'm saying-

Eugenia Schatoff:

Okay. We can review it another day.

William Morris:

That's all. I'm just saying you need to look at the formulas. That's all.

Eugenia Schatoff:

Yeah. We can do that.

William Morris:

That was my only comment on it.

Eric Sharrin:

Right. Yeah. I mean, even rounding, that would be a 97% decrease, but it should be able to show 97% and that's just for the first one. As you go onto the other ones, we should see something less than a hundred. You're right. Thank you for pointing that out. And also something with the formula going March like for audio bucks, it's more than a 135% increase. I'd say it's a 200% increase on that one, even more going from 40, 80 audio books to 113 and it's more than doubling the amount.

Eric Sharrin:

All right. Yeah. If you could see what those percentages are. Otherwise, Mrs. [Dixon 00:12:51], how about the attendance at our various [inaudible 00:12:53] courses? Any comments or questions about those? Yep? All right. Yeah.

Irene D'Anna:

Actually, I was just wondering, so this is the year-to-date change. It seems like all the numbers are going down. I would think that they'd be going up just because we're more open. So, I was just wondering what your thoughts are in that.

William Morris:

In March, we were still open at the beginning of March last year.

Eric Sharrin:

Right. If you remember-

William Morris:

That was before the lockdown.

Irene D'Anna:

Oh, okay.

Eric Sharrin:

So, the majority of the month.

Irene D'Anna:

Got you. Got you. Okay.

Eric Sharrin:

Yeah. The lockdown, I think, didn't happen until March 15th or so.

Irene D'Anna:

Okay. Got it.

Eric Sharrin:

The March 16th became, whatever that Monday was following that weekend.

Irene D'Anna:

Got you. Got you.

Eric Sharrin:

That was the first day when everybody, including restaurants, had to start closing up.

Irene D'Anna:

Got you. Okay. Sounds good.

Eric Sharrin:

All right.

William Morris:

So, next month, you should see that, I think, what you're talking about.

Irene D'Anna:

Okay. Okay.

Eric Sharrin:

All right. And that's the statistical reports. Let's move onto the director's report. Eugenia?

Eugenia Schatoff:

Okay. So, we had a number of committee meetings that took place and the committee as well individually report, but it was a busy month for us. We found out from Trane that they were going to increase our chiller rental costs by over \$2,000 per month, and so I solicited multiple estimates from different companies. We had a last minute change to the resolution that hopefully will pass later this evening because we came in with the most competitive quote. So, we get an even more competitive quote that what you read originally in my director's report, which we'll go into when you guys are passing the contractual resolution.

Eugenia Schatoff:

So, highlight of the last month, no doubt, were the Daisy troop that came and replanted the whole front of the library in front of the Vietnam memorial, the flagpole. Not only did they come and plant everything, they planted beautiful flowers but also individually painted blocks that each girl had painted and decorated for us. There are all sorts of wind catchers and happy kind of crawling bugs and butterflies. It's wonderful. Everybody who walks by comments upon it and it's a wonderful addition to our ambiance when you're approaching the building.

Eugenia Schatoff:

So, in terms of administration, kind of couple of really good financial boons. So, number one, we're getting back over \$25,000 from the Department of Labor for unemployment payments because of the layoffs and furloughs that we suffered due of COVID. We are also receiving extra additional unanticipated pilot monies from the school district and then we are also the recipients of a grant from the American Library Association for Libraries Transforming Communities. It's a very competitive grant process, so it's a big deal and big news that we received this grant. We have a couple of community partners that we've been working with to provide this programming and we look to continue offering these community conversation program. It's into the fall. We're hoping to focus on the 20th anniversary of 9/11 as a series of programs that we'll be doing.

Eugenia Schatoff:

So, everything else you read about in the director's report, I just wanted to draw attention to the financial gains that we will see shortly and there were some really wonderful patron comments at the end of the report as well that I felt was good to share with you guys. So, does anybody have any questions about the report?

Eric Sharrin:

I don't have a question about the report but taking a quick look at the home page of the library, would it be possible to get some pictures of the work the Daisies have done and maybe put it up there with a thank you to the Daisies on our home page?

Eugenia Schatoff:

It's already up. It's on our Facebook page and it's going out in the e-newsletter as well.

Eric Sharrin:

Sorry.

Eugenia Schatoff:

Yep. You see photo releases for all the girls, so we can share those pictures.

Eric Sharrin:

Sorry. I don't go into Facebook that often so I did not see it there. I'm just looking at the home page.

Eugenia Schatoff:

Yeah. It's going to go out in the e-newsletter as well.

Eric Sharrin:

Okay. So, the home page will be a no, but it's at the Facebook, it'll be on the e-newsletter. Very good.

Eugenia Schatoff:

The e-newsletter that's going out tomorrow morning. Yep.

Eric Sharrin:

Okay. Thank you. All right. Very good. Putting this ... Oh, I saw the patron comments. Were they all for the Irish singalong?

Eugenia Schatoff:

There were several that were also for unique history program that Jim Cassetta is offering and given his expansive knowledge of local history, we're fortunate that we benefit from his local expertise and so he presented a program, Julius Braunsdorf: The Life of a Visionary, which is very well-attended and we've received several great comments for that. We also constantly get wonderful comments about chair yoga. I know it's something very, very simple. It's a program that transitioned from in-person to online and still maintains a really good turnout on a weekly basis. So, that's also something that we receive a lot of praise for.

Eric Sharrin:

Very good. Does anybody else have any questions or comments? And regarding unemployment and the benefits that we got back, do we foresee hiring back any of the part-time staff that were let go that may not have been hired back in?

Eugenia Schatoff:

Yes. So, at the time when the decision was made to either lay off or furlough the entire part-time workforce of the library. Initially, it was done under the hope that COVID would be over in September. And so, September came and passed. We're still kind of in this limited operational model. In order to increase our hours to have them be close to what they used to be, we would absolutely need to hire some of the part-time staff back.

Eric Sharrin:

Okay. Very good. All right. If there are no other comments or questions, just ask Bill, Mike, Irene, anything? Nothing? Very good.

Eric Sharrin:

I'd like to move onto to our next item on the agenda. Old business. Library renewal project resolution. Directing pro-union ... Basically, the resolution to direct board of education for a special district meeting. I know we've had various conversations about this and it's been discussed. And so, I'm not sure what the proper way to do this. Do we call a vote, have a discussion? Do we have a discussion and table beforehand?

Eric Sharrin:

What I'm saying is that it's been a discussion that right now, we have the advisory committee going on and we're asking people for their input. And to put this on the agenda, even though it may not be until some time earlier than October 16th or October 5th, we're still saying we're going forward with this as it stands the way it is. And it's been agreed upon that we should think about maybe tabling this until next month while we still seek the input from our advisory committee.

Eugenia Schatoff:

So, can I just clarify? I don't think it's been agreed upon yet?

Eric Sharrin:

Okay. Thank you. It's been discussed and there's some leaning towards that way but nothing's been agreed upon because we haven't done anything actually at the board meeting yet.

Eric Sharrin:

So, with that said, we have on the agenda the resolution and I'd like to ask the opinion of and let's open this to discussion about should we vote tonight to have this passed? Can I have a ... Yeah. Go ahead.

Eugenia Schatoff:

My question would be to Wendy procedurally, does there have to be a motion made before it can be discussed or amended in any capacity? What would just be the procedural next step to open it for discussion?

Wendy Courtney:

Yes. I think you should have a motion and ... Well, if you have a motion, then you have to have a vote.

Eric Sharrin:

Well, do you have to have a vote?

Wendy Courtney:

Unless you have a motion to table entire discussion until ... Well, if you have a motion in the second ... I guess not. I guess you can say, "No. We're not going to have a vote." Motion to second and then table it.

Eric Sharrin:

And then in discussion, we could decide the pros, the cons, and table it at that point and not go forward with the vote.

Wendy Courtney:

Yes. I think you can do that.

Eric Sharrin:

Okay. In that case, can I have a motion with this ... And what happens if I ask for a motion and nobody makes the motion? Well, then automatically, it would be tabled. Is that correct?

William Morris:

I don't think we can talk about it, then.

Eric Sharrin:

What? We can't talk about it.

William Morris:

I don't think we can have the discussion about it, though.

Eugenia Schatoff:

Yeah. So, motion wouldn't mean that you necessarily support it. It means that you're bringing it up as a topic to be discussed by the full board.

Eric Sharrin:

Okay. Very good. So, Bill's making a motion. Do I have a second? And Irene second. Very good.

Eric Sharrin:

All right. So, we have this resolution directing the union-free district. Board of education called this meeting before the 5th of October. And going forward with it, it discusses the demolition of the building and I'm looking for the actual cost in here, if it has been spelled out.

Eugenia Schatoff:

I don't believe it is. I believe the square footage and the description of the project are listed there.

Eric Sharrin:

All right. So, with that said, comments, questions, thoughts?

Michael McCue:

Well, for me, I'm all in favor of tabling the matter. I think it would be premature to introduce this tonight, given the meetings we're having with, for lack of a better term, power brokers, influencers. And we've had a few but trying to line up some more. I think they're fruitful. I think, for me, we're learning what people are thinking outside the immediate library circle. And then, as you said, Eric, to set up this to invite people, for instance, Bruce Bond again. His name comes ... To say, "Oh, we'd like your input on an advisory board," I don't know. I don't think it would be received well if he learned that we are proceeding on this resolution tonight. Even though there's no figure involved, cost figure, I think he's made clear what he thinks in terms of 16 million versus 23 and we can talk about that-

Eric Sharrin:

Right.

Michael McCue:

... more, if you want.

Eric Sharrin:

No. I agree and in the end, we're not going to get everybody to agree. I mean, if we can agree on anything, we're not going to have a hundred percent buy-in on this. It'd be great if we did. I mean, I'd be happy, be very happy but I realize there's a lot of opinions out there. There's a lot of feelings towards this but I agree that we have this advisory board that we started. We're getting more people in and we're asking people and to get this in and put this up for a vote before we really get everybody's input, I think would be putting the cart before the horse, so to speak. It may not be well-received that way, but really, for looking for people's input, as you said, we should get the input. And tabling this till next month, I think might be a wise decision to do, but I'd like to make sure, if we can, take all efforts to try and really get this on the agenda for next months so that we can vote on it and then put it in front of the board of education.

Eric Sharrin:

On the other side, to devil's advocate of this, we've been looking to do this for the last six months, not mentioning all the years we've been looking to do this project. And it's not that it's a rush but as prices start to increase, just for basic building materials, the longer we wait, just necessarily inflation will start to kick in. We want to try and head that off, if we can. But yes, I agree that if we can table this until next time and let's see what we can do about really getting this so we can get all the input we need, that'd be great. Yes, Irene.

Irene D'Anna:

I just kind of want to mention that I don't know whether it's because of COVID that kind of easing up a little bit or whether it's just the summer coming out, but people are kind of more receptive to conversations and I think that what we're doing recently is we're doing the listening campaign and also an education campaign and we're listening to people, not just the board of ed folk, but we're listening to everybody. A lot of people that have emailed into the library concerning with their concerns, but also in addition, we're educating everybody as much as we can to basically say how dire the situation is.

Irene D'Anna:

The library looks good on the outside, but when you look under the hood, it's not what it seems and that, it might not be occupiable in a couple of years, so people need to understand that. And then once they're educated and once we listen to their concerns, I think it's going to be great and I just want to point out in the last month, for some reason, we've gotten such great momentum with this Listening in Education campaign that I feel like we need to kind of pursue it and really get the most out of it, to get the people who are in our community involved as much and educate them and listen to them. I feel like even another month of pursuing this campaign will go so far for our library and to make sure that the end result is going to be what our community wants and what our community needs.

Eric Sharrin:

Yes. And, as I mentioned, it won't be everybody in the community, because they're just people who-

Irene D'Anna:

Yeah. Of course.

Eric Sharrin:

... won't vote, but we'll have a majority of the community and that education. I just want to comment that we've been doing this every month since December, we have a meeting every single month online. We invite sometimes I throw out a meeting invite on Facebook, on one of the Pearl River parents' pages, just to let people know about it, to help educate, but a lot of times, what we do is we'll have a lot of people sign up but nobody will come.

Eric Sharrin:

So, but now, as you mentioned, it's warmer out now. People are getting the vaccines. People are likely to actually come out and we're doing something we didn't do before. We're giving tours and we're showing them. And for that, it's a tactile experience. They're not just looking at me on a computer screen and Eugenia and a great architect, Paul Mays and our contractor, Dominic. They're actually able to come in and see for themselves and I think that adds so much to the experience and to understanding what is actually going on because we could show pictures, but pictures don't really do the same thing as when you are in there and you looking at the rust and the horrible shape everything is in. So, yes. Eugenia?

Eugenia Schatoff:

Yes. So, just to add, also just want to remind you we also have the weekly chats with the director so I do have people signing at-

Eric Sharrin:

Yes.

Eugenia Schatoff:

... every week who I've been meeting with, answering one-on-one questions as well. So, in addition to that, we're also doing the two tours a week as well as scheduling additional people for tours. I agree with Irene that it's really picked up. I think it's the spring and the loosening of COVID restrictions that have made people much more apt to come in and talk to us. I will say, also, that there is kind of a disconnect in the community in terms of the dissemination of information.

Eugenia Schatoff:

So, I'm still hearing from people now who don't realize we're on a pause. So, I'm still communicating to people. Now, we're hearing quite often, "When's the vote? When's the vote? What's the vote?" People are still finding out about this cause. So, I think that committing to it and the educational campaign is really important. It takes a while for the information to get out there into the community.

Eric Sharrin:

Okay. Bill, do you have anything to add?

William Morris:

No, no. I agree with what both Mike and Irene said and I appreciate the input from Eugenia. I think it makes sense to get this input from the people who we're soliciting input from to ensure that we're considering that as we go forward with the project.

Eric Sharrin:

Right, and Eugenia, I think you said we're meeting once a week. I think you've been having twice-a-week chats with the director about this, if I'm correct. Isn't that right?

Eugenia Schatoff:

No. Once a week. It alternates mornings, evenings-

Eric Sharrin:

Oh.

Eugenia Schatoff:

... depending on who the week-

Eric Sharrin:

Which week it is. Okay. That's where I got a little ... I combined them all to one week. Very good. All right. With the discussion that's being discussed, yes. Yes. Go ahead, Mike.

Michael McCue:

Just one more thing or observation is that our target audience for this resolution is the board of ed and they're undoubtedly under stress now themselves with their upcoming budget vote, so if we wait until May 25th, hopefully, their budget will pass and maybe they'll be in a good mood.

Eric Sharrin:

No. That's a very good point to make. And just to clarify, and please correct me if I'm wrong. Just to state what you said, you said our target audience with the referendum vote. Is that the vote or to put the vote on the agenda because-

Michael McCue:

No, no. The target audience with this resolution.

Eric Sharrin:

Right, is the board of ed.

Michael McCue:

The board of ed.

Eric Sharrin:

Okay. Right. My mind is thinking that the target audience for what the actual referendum vote is, which is, that's a whole different thing. That's everybody. No. Yes, just to have this thing approved. All right. So, with all this discussion, I'm not sure what the correct procedure. Do we continue? Do we make a motion to table? Do we come-

Wendy Courtney:

I think you can reach a consensus to table the motion until next month.

Eric Sharrin:

Okay. So, if we could discuss that on the consensus, I'd like to ask who would like to table this vote until next month. I'm going to go around and ask. Bill? Irene?

William Morris:

You have three hands up.

Eric Sharrin:

Mike? I got three hands up, I guess. Bill and Mike and myself also. With that said, I will not call the vote at this time but having reached a consensus, we would like to table this discussion until any action until next month's board meeting. Thank you all for your input. It's really helpful. And to look at everything and look at it again and just make ... It's difficult making decisions but making the right one is not always the easy thing to do, not always the easy thing to find but we do it very often and this is, I feel, one of them. Thank you very much for your input.

Eric Sharrin:

With that said, we now go onto our committee reports. Yes.

Eugenia Schatoff:

So, buildings and grounds actually met a couple of times so they also are not only do they meet as buildings and grounds but they're self-appointed tour guides of the library. So Irene, Mike, I don't know if you want to share anything about buildings and grounds or about the tours. This is going to be your first time reporting as committee members.

Michael McCue:

Well, I just like to say I've spent so much time with tech girl that I think we're now relatives, but it's-

Irene D'Anna:

I love it.

Michael McCue:

... a lot of fun, very educational for me to come on board and so, it's my one-month anniversary and to be able to press Eugenia for information and figures and she's very accommodating getting reports. I'm gaining muscle mass as I lift all this paper, but it's made me a lot more informed than I was a month ago and so hopefully, we can recruit some more people, meeting senator Elijah the other day was great and, of course, a great coup to have Bruce bring along Superintendent Pochintesta. That was good.

Irene D'Anna:

Mike Lawler.

Michael McCue:

Mike Lawler, another voice, another point of view that was useful to hear.

Irene D'Anna:

Yeah. No. It was definitely a lot of information's processed just because I'm new as well. I think maybe I have maybe one month on you, Mike. Not much, but it's definitely a lot of information to process, but at the same time, it's so eye-opening, what the situation is and how dire it is. And it definitely does not seem so from the outside, so it's nice when we show it to people who either didn't know about it or had their own frame of what this project was about. It's nice to see their reaction when they take the tour and I encourage everybody to take it but to see their reaction and say, "Oh, my gosh. This shouldn't be like this." So, it's kind of, in a way, rewarding when we do the tours because I think people are getting it. So, I find it rewarding but a little bit overblown in terms of time commitment.

Eric Sharrin:

Well, thank you both very much for all the time you're committing and happy anniversary to both of you. Irene, it's the last time you can say this. You've actually served twice as long as Mike has.

Irene D'Anna:

I know. Very nice.

Michael McCue:

Does that mean she's getting a bigger watch?

Eric Sharrin:

We're going to double her salary.

Michael McCue:

Oh!

Irene D'Anna:

I think you get a bigger USB drive or something like that.

Eric Sharrin:

Let me do the calculation. Two times zero is ...

Michael McCue:

That's right. There's the negative value.

Eric Sharrin:

Yes. I'll send her how much she needs to contribute. No. Thank you. I know it's a big time commitment and I'm glad you're both able to do this and give of your time.

Irene D'Anna:

Happy to do it.

Eric Sharrin:

Thank you. Policy.

Eugenia Schatoff:

Policy did not meet. Finance did not meet. Personnel had meetings scheduled that were need to be rescheduled. And then we also had the ad hoc committee met just to discuss the general library renewal project and referendum dates that could, the conversation you were having now supersedes anything that was discussed in committee. It was just kind of a background and then also the newly formed tech committee met. So, if you guys want to report on that to the group.

Eric Sharrin:

Sure. Would you like to report, Irene or would you like me to?

Irene D'Anna:

Sure. I mean, we set some very kind of high level goals of being a technology-forward library, which is great for the new age but, and we were able to kind of set some very high-level goals, but I'm not sure if we really got into the nitty-gritties of it just yet. But it was a good meeting. It was good to understand what the committee is going to do and what they're responsible for and since I'm tech girl, so it's only natural that I'm in it.

Eric Sharrin:

Yeah. And I'm that family member everybody calls when something goes wrong.

Irene D'Anna:

That's right.

Eric Sharrin:

So, being tech boy myself.

Irene D'Anna:

That's right. We got the best committee. I kid you not.

Eric Sharrin:

It's nice to talk with people who know what I'm talking. You can use technical terms and I understand it, you understand. It's great.

Irene D'Anna:

Exactly. Yeah. We have a lot of work to do.

Eric Sharrin:

We do. We do. We can't even announce what long-term is yet but we've had that meeting at 2:00 and we're ready to go forward with this and move on and really get something going because whether we stay, move, or build, or all three, we need to have a plan of action, a long-term plan of action with our technology.

Irene D'Anna:

I agree.

Eric Sharrin:

And that is our goal, long term.

Irene D'Anna:

And also to save money, honestly. That's the real big point of it to accomplish the things we set out to do whether it's being mobile or moving to another place, to do it cost effectively.

Eric Sharrin:

Absolutely.

Irene D'Anna:

I mean, that's kind of our goals.

Eric Sharrin:

Yep. Mobile and modularity all at the same time, if possible, so you can move and take what we need and be functional anywhere. Okay. And with that, we have any personnel items? Is there anything else to discuss with the committees that I may have missed?

Eugenia Schatoff:

So, no. Personnel did not meet and this is not a big personnel, big key personnel item yet but we do have the two, big hint, librarian one positions, so we're going to be looking to hire for the end of point for those positions shortly. I've already been in contact with civil service. We've interviewed some candidates so next meeting, we'll be ready to present on the hires.

Eric Sharrin:

Okay. Very good. All right.

Irene D'Anna:

Has there been any progress in the union contract negotiation?

Eugenia Schatoff:

So, yes. So, I had emailed you guys about the latest update and I had hoped that we could go into executives this session this evening to discuss the final kind of less parts of it that still need to be addressed.

Eric Sharrin:

Okay. Yep. And I see that's on the agenda. So, we will do that. So, now we have new business and I have a question. First thing on my new business agenda ... Now, let me make sure I have the correct agenda because I know a new agenda has been sent out and I forget there was an extra item of a letter that came in, I don't remember where it was. I'm not looking at that particular agenda in front of me and here we go.

Wendy Courtney:

It's under correspondence, Eric. Nothing's changed in new business.

Eric Sharrin:

Very good. So, we have new business and we have this new business to appoint poll workers, but once again is this, do I have to even call a vote for this and may I table this based upon the fact that we tabled the preceding resolution and don't know-

William Morris:

No. This is the poll workers for the budget benefit.

Eric Sharrin:

Oh, thank you. This is why I'm asking the question. Very good. So, these are the poll workers for our budget [inaudible 00:44:10] which will be occurring in June. And so, I would like to read the resolution. I would like to find the resolution. Here it is. And I'll read the resolution and then we'll have a motion to accept it and vote. "The following resolution was approved by the board of trustees of the Pearl River Public Library on April 26th, 2021, resolved that the board of trustees of the Pearl River Public Library appoints the following persons as poll workers for the 2021 budget vote and trustee election, Jane Crab, current inspector of election. Maureen O'Callahan, head clerk. Mary [Feher 00:44:51], assistant clerk. Rose [Farchella 00:44:56], assistant clerk, Regina Blake, assistant clerk, and Mary [O'Boil 00:45:00], assistant clerk." Do I have a motion to accept these-

William Morris:

Yes.

Eric Sharrin:

... boards? I have a motion. I have a second. So, Bill made the motion. Mike seconded. All in favor?

William Morris:

Aye.

Eric Sharrin:

One, two, three. Irene? Four. And none opposed. And the resolution passes.

Eric Sharrin:

I have a second resolution and this is our resolution to approve the expenditure for the chiller. "The following resolution was approved by the board of trustees of the Pearl River Public Library on April 26th, 2021. Resolved that the board of trustees of the Pearl River Public Library approves the expenditure of \$61,800, the installation and rental of a chiller unit from Carrier for a period of six months." This is to say, can I have a motion?

William Morris:

Yes.

Eric Sharrin:

I have a motion and Mike is right up there. I think I saw Bill first and then Mike second, so in that order. I'd like to open this up to discussion just to mention what's going on. Yes. Irene, can you see?

Eugenia Schatoff:

So, if you could please, I just recently received an updated price. So, if you could adjust it as not to exceed amount because the quote that I have is for a little bit less and I might be able to get it a little bit lower.

Eric Sharrin:

So, what we'd like to do is adjust the wording of our resolution, but we're going to keep this same vendor.

Eugenia Schatoff:

Correct.

Eric Sharrin:

Okay. All right.

William Morris:

We're just adding that to exceed [crosstalk 00:46:46]-

Eugenia Schatoff:

Not to exceed.

Eric Sharrin:

Right. And approves the expenditure not to exceed \$61,800 for the installation and rental of the chiller unit for the carrier for a period of six months. Okay.

William Morris:

Is this a third vendor?

Eugenia Schatoff:

Correct. This is a third vendor. I had initially inquired with maybe five different vendors and then ultimately received the three estimates including the one from Trane who we used in previous years. There were two additional companies that we solicited or actually received estimates from.

William Morris:

Excellent.

Eric Sharrin:

Yeah. So, the original cost to this whole thing is going to be 78,950 and now, we are down to not to exceed \$61,800. So, we have right now a 10,150 and maybe more savings.

Eric Sharrin:

With that said, I have a motion. I have a second. We've discussed it. Do we need to have the motion redone based upon the change of wording or do we vote based upon the change of wording?

Wendy Courtney:

I think you'd vote to adopt it as amended.

Eric Sharrin:

Okay. Very good. Is there, go ahead, any other questions or comments?

William Morris:

Just one more comment. I just want to make it clear for the record why that this is part of the reason for pursuing the renewal project is the condition of the HVAC system in the library and as funny public that are listening to this now or go back and look at the transcript later, I want them to understand that this quite substantial expenditure and a recurring one which, Eugenia's, it's fantastic that she's gotten it so far down. It's still something that's costing us on an annual basis to keep things limping along. That's all.

Eric Sharrin:

Thank you.

Irene D'Anna:

This is the third year that it's happening because our chillers just are not repairable and that this is just the portion of it. There's going to be additional cost to this as well. And we also have heating costs. And that is why a lot of this is not really sustainable anymore and that's why we need to rebuild the library.

William Morris:

Right. Thank you. Yes.

Eric Sharrin:

Thank you. Mike, you have anything to add? Okay.

Michael McCue:

No. It's just another Band-Aid and another bit of money essentially not wasted completely, but it's the only way the building can remain open.

Eric Sharrin:

Yeah. So, more than a Band-Aid. It's like a tourniquet, the size of this thing, but yes, absolutely. All right-

Michael McCue:

And [crosstalk 00:49:47] model.

Eugenia Schatoff:

And we actually extended the rental period because, as you may recall, we actually had to close in October because of the humidity and heat within the building because the unit in previous years was taken out September 30th. So, we had to extend into October because it's been warmer in October now.

Eric Sharrin:

Right. So, we're saving even more because we had a \$78,000 thing that would have been for ... Oh, it is for six months, but very good. Okay. With that said, if there's no further discussion, I'd like to call a vote to accept the resolution as amended. All in favor?

William Morris:

Aye.

Eric Sharrin:

Any opposed? None. And the resolution passes. Thank you all for that.

Eric Sharrin:

Okay. Moving on, our next item on the agenda is our correspondence. A letter from [inaudible 00:50:50] Murray. Eugenia?

Eugenia Schatoff:

Yeah. So, you've received a letter that was hand delivered to the library by a resident, a Mr. Murray. And in response to the letter, I had reached out to him via telephone several times and left him messages to try to further understand the exact nature of his complaint.

Eugenia Schatoff:

So, first, I would like to draw attention to the fact that people are still confused about our open status, meaning there are still people who don't realize they can come in. We are regularly fielding comments on Facebook where people are like, "Oh, can I come into the library?" So, it takes a while for the information to get out there. So, that's something that we've been dealing with ever since we reopened.

Eugenia Schatoff:

Another piece of it is that I think the behavior that he's specifically mentioning that he would like to be able to partake in the library is really kind of sitting and reading. And unfortunately, given the way that the restrictions are with COVID and with capacity, we have been limiting patrons visit time to one hour.

Eugenia Schatoff:

The reason that we've been doing that is because we want to, based upon our statement dated capacity levels, to be able to welcome anybody who comes in the doors. So, we didn't want to have to police people as they come in. We wanted to offer them computer service, notary service, the ability to sit in a study carrel for up to an hour and then complete their visit. And we did that out of a sense of fairness to be able to welcome everybody that walks in the door and to be able to serve them as we can, but just for a limited period of time.

Eugenia Schatoff:

So, I'm not sure exactly other than what I gleaned from the letter. I think that more than anything, he did want a place to be able to sit and read. We are offering that with a time stamp. So, that's unfortunately the COVID kind of world that we live in. As I stated in my director's report, we only recently as a library system stopped quarantining materials about a week or two ago. So, up until two weeks ago, there was even concern about transmission upon inanimate objects and items. So, we're trying to be safe and stay safe for patrons and for staff. We're trying to comply with the reopening plan that we submitted to New York State and to Rockland County and, as things continue to ease, so will our services continue to grow.

Eugenia Schatoff:

We just received notice that in May, again, the capacity levels will increase. So, that's good news for us and we're just keeping abreast of the situation and trying to be flexible as things reopen. Yeah. So, any questions about the letter or the content of the letter or thoughts?

Eric Sharrin:

Open it up. Anybody? Mike, Bill, Irene?

Irene D'Anna:

When do you think or when do you anticipate that the library will be open back to its full service? I know things are kind of up, but if you were to guess.

Eugenia Schatoff:

So, right now, one of the largest issues with reopening to our full hours is the fact that we still have staff being mandated to quarantine every single week. And so any given week, we have 10 to 15% of our staff, which is being forced to quarantine as per Rockland County guidelines.

Eugenia Schatoff:

The guidelines recently changed so with vaccination, if you are exposed to somebody who is COVID positive and you self-monitor, you don't have that full 10-day restriction anymore. So, I would say as more and more people become doubly vaccinated that then we could start to increase our hours again. As Erica mentioned previously, we also do need to rehire or hire part-time staff again because we've been running from a very lean crew for the hours that we are currently open.

Eric Sharrin:

And when people come in, if they sit in a chair, is that chair, after they leave, wiped down immediately? Have you cornered it off until you could actually get somebody to wipe it down? That's one of my questions. Two, because I haven't been in the library to see, are the chairs placed far enough apart so when people pass them, they could stay socially distant? As it was before, you really couldn't have a lot of, with the chairs there were, you'd be forced to pass within a six-foot barrier of somebody in order to get to certain items and you want to avoid that.

Eugenia Schatoff:

So, yes. So, we follow all of the mandatory state guidelines. So, in an effort to prevent congregating, we did put all of our leisure spaces and leisure chairs, study tables, everything has been moved. So, the only chairs that we have out currently are at computer stations which are effectively distanced or the study carrels that we have that are effectively distanced.

Eugenia Schatoff:

I do want to flat out say that dealing with the public, there is no observation of social distancing. So, you try but if you're helping somebody on the copier or somebody wants your help with something, it's to our benefit that we have very high ceilings, it's to our benefit that we are keeping visits to a minimum, that we're complying with the capacity guidelines as much as we try to enforce it, it is difficult. We're constantly still enforcing masks.

Eric Sharrin:

Well, that's important and I go into ShopRite every week and I can tell you, there's not social distancing there. Somebody's touching fruit. You're touching the same fruit, but everybody's wearing a mask, everybody's moving. You're not within the distance of sitting one person and you for 15 minutes. So, there's no accumulation of that.

Eric Sharrin:

And by following those basic guidelines of making sure everybody's wearing a mask, I don't know if you still check temperature of people when they come in or if you have them put on, you have the alcohol so they can put some on their hand just to wipe down before they come in, but by doing these little things, even if you're vaccinated, it helps keep everybody safe and it's not just to keep us safe, it's to keep them safe as well.

Eric Sharrin:

So, the fact that two people are talking to each other, if they're both masked, if they've both taken the necessary precautions, that's what it's about at this point. We've learned a lot in the last year. A year ago, it's like you didn't want to be within the same anywhere that somebody is. And now, knowing what we know, knowing there's a lot more vaccinations and that, that hopefully most of the library staff has been vaccinated or is on the way to getting vaccinated as being frontline people. Taking those precautions is still something that should be mandatory and is a smart thing to do, in my opinion and I feel that's why I've been able to go to ShopRite every single week and I get what I need to get to the point where, yes, I do go to ShopRite, but I'm masked up. I do go to Costco, but I'm masked up and I look at my hands and I wipe things down. So, we're taking those precautions.

Eric Sharrin:

It's the same thing at the library. As long as we're masked and taking precautions, I think that's important and putting in the time is important also, because of the current situation that we're in. It doesn't hurt. One hour is, I think, a long time to be able to look at stuff and do what you need to do. So, anyway, thank you. Thank you for your diligence.

Eugenia Schatoff:

To confirm, we do have sanitation stations. We have sanitation stations. We do have hand washing, sanitizing stations throughout. Yes, we do.

Eric Sharrin:

Yeah. So, not sure how to respond to Mr. Murray but to let him know that the library is open and he can sit for the hour and it's not up to full par, but I'm not sure. I can't even go to my own house of worship because they're just not open to the public yet. So, it's-

Irene D'Anna:

I think the way to respond is just to say that there's light at the end of the tunnel. It's been a long tunnel. It's been a tunnel for over a year, but there is a light at the end of the tunnel and please come in to the library and watch us. Get out of this tunnel. And little by little, I think there's going to be more services, more features of the library that I'm sure will come to bear, as soon as the CDC says it's okay and as soon as it's safe for everybody.

Eric Sharrin:

And, if you can come visit the library side. More than anything, let him know. Come visit the library. You just have to-

Irene D'Anna:

Yeah. Absolutely. Yeah. He has been.

Eric Sharrin:

Oh, okay. Very good. Very good. Well, it's good to see and it's nice to see that he enjoys coming to the library because that's important also. That's somebody you want to keep happy because these are our constituents that people who want to use the library. It's great to see. It really is.

Eric Sharrin:

And do we have any other comments on the letter? Mike, Bill? Thank you. All right. In that case, do we have any public comments at this point?

Eugenia Schatoff:

We do. So, we have, "Suggest you post a list of the expenses made to keep the building up and running. It will add insight into the reasons to get the building updated." And this is from Robert [Mizochi 01:01:22] or Mizochi, I apologize if I'm misspelling your last name. I believe you came to one of my chats with the director, so welcome to our board meeting and I think that's a wonderful idea and something that we've already, I know Deb has been, the senior clerk has been crunching numbers for us to figure

out how much we've been spending all together, but I think putting it all in one place and making almost a thermometer or a scale to show to date how much we've been spending on these temporary Band-Aids would be a very powerful thing for the public to see.

Eric Sharrin:

Yes. Thank you very much for that suggestion. That's a great suggestion. Do you have anything else to comment on or any questions to ask at this time?

Eugenia Schatoff:

So, it looks like we don't have any more comments or questions.

Eric Sharrin:

Okay. Well, at this point, we have the executive session, which we'd like to go into discuss union contract negotiations. So, I would need a motion. I will make a motion. I remade the motion. I remade the motion. Very good. And I guess I could second it. Am I allowed to actually second it as a board member or do I really have to ... I'll let somebody else second it. Do I have a second? Mile's seconding. Very good.

Eric Sharrin:

All right. The time is 8:18 and the regular meeting at this point is temporarily adjourned while we go into executive session to discuss union contract negotiations. Debra and Magda and Wendy, I thank you for joining us and-

William Morris:

Thank you.

Eric Sharrin:

... stay safe and we'll see you next time.

Magda Parvulescu:

[inaudible 01:03:22]. Good bye.

Wendy Courtney:

Could you vote on that motion?

Eric Sharrin:

Oh, wait. You know what? You're absolute ... Thank you. Okay. We have the motion, I dismissed everybody. I like to call the vote on that motion. All in favor of going into executive session.

Irene D'Anna:

Aye.

Male:

Aye.

Eric Sharrin:

Oh, all four have voted yes.

Wendy Courtney:

Thank you for that procedural little [crosstalk 01:03:49].

Eric Sharrin:

Little procedural ... Thank you-

Wendy Courtney:

Okay.

Eric Sharrin:

... for reminding me.

Wendy Courtney:

Good night, everyone.

Eric Sharrin:

Good night.

William Morris:

Good night.

Eric Sharrin:

Okay. I'm going to get a little water and take a bio-break. I'll be right back.

Eugenia Schatoff:

[inaudible 01:04:02]. Okay.

Eric Sharrin:

All right. We just came out of our executive session where we discussed union negotiations. And, with that, I just have to ask to adjourn so, if that's still 9:03, do I have a motion to adjourn the meeting?

Michael McCue:

I so move.

Eric Sharrin:

I have Irene and Mike made a second. Irene is first, Mike is second. All in favor.

Irene D'Anna:

Aye.

Eric Sharrin:

Aye.

Male:

Aye.

Eric Sharrin:

Four in favor, none opposed at 9:04. We are ending the meeting. Thank you all.

Eugenia Schatoff:

Reminder to everybody. The next meeting is actually on Tuesday the 25th, because that's the budget hearing and meeting.

William Morris:

[crosstalk 01:04:53].

Eric Sharrin:

What we do there is we present the budget as it is and people get on and ask us about it for whoever shows up and then we just answer the questions.

Irene D'Anna:

Wonderful.

William Morris:

All right. Sounds like fun. It's been lovely.

Irene D'Anna:

Always a pleasure. I'll see you at the party, Eugenia and Mike. I'll see you at 11:00.

William Morris:

11:00.

Eugenia Schatoff:

Yeah. Tomorrow. And then I'll be at the 6:00 one, too, tomorrow.

Irene D'Anna:

Okay. Is there anybody ... Wait. Did you say that everybody's coming at 6:00 or they're coming at 11:00?

Eugenia Schatoff:

So, I don't have anybody lined up for 11:00. For 6:00, I have one person lined up.

Irene D'Anna:

Okay. Because I don't get action until people schedule. There's hardly anybody coming.

Eugenia Schatoff:

I had asked. Donna had a number of people that she had reached out to who didn't want to be on the adversary committee, but are big movers and shakers in town and they'd all agreed to tours.

Irene D'Anna:

Okay.

Eugenia Schatoff:

She had a list of 10 or 15 people that had agreed to tours so it'd be good to get them scheduled.

Irene D'Anna:

Yeah. Okay. So, if you guys have friends, just tell them that Irene is really lonely and she really needs friends, because I'm actually anti-social and it's really sad that I'm there for an hour by myself.

William Morris:

I'll keep that in mind.

Irene D'Anna:

Seriously. I'm not joking.