



## Minutes of the Groversville Public Library Board of Trustees Meeting May 18th, 2021

The Groversville Public Library Board of Trustees held a meeting on May 18th, 2021. Present were President Charles “Ren” Reed, Vice President Merry Dunn-Brown, Library Director Valerie Acklin, Treasurer Michael Frank, Secretary Christian W. Rohrs, Christine Pesses, Sue Shrader, Richard Carlson, Gregory Niforos, Caren Pepper, and John Mazur. Mr. Reed called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM. When asked for any public comment, Mr. Reed welcomed *Leader Herald* reporter Jennifer Farnsworth.

Valerie Acklin  
Library Director

Mr. Reed asked for a motion to approve the April minutes. Mrs. Pesses made a motion, with a second motion made by Ms. Pepper. Mr. Niforos requested an amended motion that the minutes included the following information: “The 2021-2022 budget was publicly presented via the Groversville Public Library’s website.”

2020-2021  
Board of Trustees

Mr. Reed asked Mr. Frank to review the Financial Report for the ten-month period ending April 30, 2021. Mr. Frank informed the Trustees that our income for the period was up approximately \$60,900 from the same period of the preceding year, due to the Internal Revenue Service Payroll Credit related to COVID-19 of \$86,471, which is being used to pay current payroll taxes each month in the current year. Mr. Frank also informed the Trustees that our expenses for the period were up approximately \$62,500 over last year, due primarily to the new Maintenance Contracts this year that we did not have for the building last year. The increase in payroll and related payroll taxes over the prior fiscal year also increased the expenses for the current year. Mr. Frank also informed the Trustees that included in Miscellaneous Expense this year is a \$5,000 fee paid for a Grant application. Mr. Frank asked the Board for any questions or comments on the Financial Report. Hearing none, Mrs. Pesses made a motion, seconded by Mr. Mazur, to accept the Financial Report as presented. This was approved all voting “aye.”

Merry Dunn Brown

Richard Carlson

John Mazur

Greg Niforos

Caren Pepper

Christine Pesses

Charles Reed

Christian Rohrs

Susan Schrader

Mr. Frank distributed the Warrants list for May 2021, numbered 2356 through 2382, which was audited by John Blackmon, our Claims Auditor. Mr. Blackmon found all claims to be legitimate claims for monies due from the Groversville Public Library and recommended payment of same. Ms. Pepper made a motion, seconded by Mr. Niforos, to approve the Warrants and to have Mr. Frank, our Treasurer, prepare checks for payment of these claims. This was approved all voting “aye.”

Mr. Frank informed the Trustees that the Foundation Board had not met yet this year, but that he was trying to get in touch with Jeramiah Wood to schedule a Finance Committee meeting and a full Board meeting in June.

Mr. Reed delivered a report of the Friends of the Library, submitted by Mrs. Jean La Porta. The Friends have selected a 202 winner for their annual \$500 scholarship. The winner's name will be announced at the GHS Awards Night in June. The annual spaghetti fundraiser is tomorrow, Wednesday, May 19th at Plaza Italian Bistro. Don't forget to pick up your dinner at the drive through. If you need more tickets, please contact Kathy Konakov or Patty Franco. Nancy Krawczeski will be providing information about the Friends' Basket Raffle during June. Previous donors will be contacted. New donors are welcome too. Be sure to notify Nancy or Jean if you wish to be a new donor this year. The next Friends meeting will be August 5<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM and they will be taking part in the library's summer program on August 12<sup>th</sup>. She also congratulates new and returning trustees and thanks them for all they do for the library.

Mr. Carlson delivered a report on behalf of the Buildings and Grounds Committee. Topics discussed included HVAC chiller winter damage and chiller problems. There is work under way, with TBS putting together a temporary “band aid” fix. Mr. Carlson also reported upon the boiler problems and how they are going offline. Jim Esper also contacted the committee, aware of the need for tree removal and will schedule a time to complete the job. Also, his company will work on the slope landscaping once the parking lot tree removal and fence repair is complete. There haven’t been any new leaks in the Children’s Room or Mechanical Room so the architect’s investigation is on hold for now.

Mrs. Pesses reported on behalf of the Policy Committee. She asked for a motion to accept the following policies: Computer and Internet, Meeting Room, and Tutoring. Mr. Reed asked for any discussion. Hearing none, Mr. Mazur made a motion, with a second motion made by Mrs. Shrader. The board approved with “aye.”

Mrs. Pesses also discussed the first reading of Donor Recognition policy and Patron Borrowing policy, the latter of which, Ms. Acklin made it clear, will make the GPL is fine free for the majority of materials. The Conflicts of Interest policy underwent a first reading, as well, and will be in effect July 1, 2021. Mr. Reed asked for a motion to accept it as written. Ms. Pepper made a motion, with a second motion made by Ms. Dunn-Brown. The board approved with “aye.”

Ms. Dunn-Brown delivered a report for the Outreach Committee. She is hoping volunteers will be present at the Southern ADK Wine and Food Festival. Mr. Niforos suggested the Outreach committee set up a table at Food Truck Friday.

Mrs. Shrader reported on behalf of the Personnel Committee, whereas she noted there will be a committee meeting on May 26<sup>th</sup> at 11 AM.

Ms. Acklin reported on behalf of the Program Committee and she announced the GPL received a mini grant of \$600 from MVLS for programming. With this money, they have purchased a wagon for materials for programs, a portable PA system to use in the park this summer, and other program-related items. Program registration is up and she would like to thank Mrs. Pesses and Ms. Dunn-Brown for their help distributing information about the Library’s offerings.

When asked if there was anything to report on behalf of the Public Relations committee, Mr. Rohrs noted that there was not much to discuss other than thanking Ms. Acklin, the staff, the Friends, and the Trustees for making the library such a positive presence in the community. When asked to discuss the Director’s Report, Ms. Acklin announced the results of the budget and trustee vote. The vote on the proposed budget received 128 votes of yes and 35 votes of no. The following trustees were approved to the board:

- Gregory Niforos
- Caren Pepper
- John Mazur
- Merry Dunn-Brown
- Richard Carlson

Three write-in votes were Robin Wentworth, Frank Lauria, and David Heacock. The board of trustees respectfully acknowledges any and all write-in votes and anticipates working with the write-in candidates in some capacity in the future.

Mr. Reed asked for a motion to accept the results. Mrs. Pesses made a motion, with a second motion made by Ms. Dunn-Brown. The board approved with a vote of “aye.”

In the President's Report, Mr. Reed congratulated all returning trustees and congratulated Ms. Acklin on her "first rodeo" with the budget.

Mr. Reed asked if there was any new business. Ms. Pepper inquired if masks were required while being in the library. Ms. Acklin responded that it is recommended that people are still masked while inside.

At 8:26, Mr. Reed asked for a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Pesses made a motion, with a second motion made by Mr. Mazur. The board approved with "aye."

Respectfully submitted

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Christian W. Rohrs, Secretary