

Eve Suckow called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m. in person.

Attendance

* Members present: Nancy Baumgartner, Jeanne Herrick, Eve Suckow, Melissa Seehaver, Abbie Hartung, Gary Stene, and Library Director Lisa Bragg-Hurlburt
* Non-members present:

Quorum: A quorum has been established.

Open meeting law: We are in certification of compliance with the open meeting law.

Approval of Agenda

* Jeanne Herrick made a motion to accept the agenda.  Abbie Hartung seconded the motion.  Unanimously approved by the board.

Approval of Minutes

* Nancy Baumgartner made a motion to approve the minutes of November 2024.  Jeanne Herrick seconded the motion.  Unanimously approved by the Board.

Approval of Bills

* Nancy Baumgartner made a motion to approve the bills for November 2024.  Melissa Seehaver seconded the approval.  Unanimously approved by the Board.

Current Business

* Gary Stene reported from the Village Board and County Board that funding for the library has not been decided yet.
* Melissa Seehaver (School Representative) reported that the school’s holiday concert was yesterday.
* Melissa also reported that Synergy Coop sponsored a book-pizza program.
* Nancy Baumgartner (Elevator Project Representative) reported that there was no Elevator Project Meeting since the Library Board last met.
* During Lisa Bragg-Hurlburt’s director’s report, she reported that:
  + She has been fundraising heavily for the library this past month and the library has raised $8,128 for the Library’s 2025 budget. This amount is broken down as follows:
    - $1,000 donation from Mary Packer
    - $150 donation from Al Stai
    - $4,000 grant from United Way-Red Cedar Valley
    - $978 grant from UW-Madison’s East Asia Center
    - $500 Kiwanis
    - $500 Dairy State Bank
  + Additionally the Library has received several non-monetary grants, including:
    - A Ravensburger Puzzle Grant
    - Set of 6 children’s books about feelings
  + Other contributions to the Library include:
    - The Colfax Women’s Club Bake Sale on Saturday (with proceeds going to the library). Proceeds exceeded $500.
    - Boy Scout, Cooper Gibbs, and his family donated a “Little Free Pantry” to have in the hallway. It is stocked with food for people to take as needed. There will eventually be a newspaper article about this.
    - Several people from the community donated some wonderful children’s books to the library. Many are Easy Readers. The library staff and Lisa have come up with a plan to increase display area for children’s books by reconfiguring the furniture already in the children’s space.
    - A set of 10 books written by a local author (memorial for Jean Fox).
    - A $1,000 donation to the elevator project (also in memory of Jean Fox).
    - Lisa watched an online class put on by the ALA about what to expect after the inauguration. Key take-aways included:
      * Our library is locally funded, which means that if funds to the Dept. of Ed. are cut, it will not directly impact us, however, it could impact some of the grants that we receive, such as the one that gave us the automatic door and the East Asia grant.
      * We are encouraged to continue to build connections within the community, village, and county, as well as local businesses, etc.
        + One way Lisa intends to do this is by finding additional ways the library can be a resource for people. The new “Free Little Pantry” is part of this plan.
        + Local EMTs also contacted the library about having two nebulizers available to patrons to check out and then return to Colfax Rescue to be sanitized for next use.
      * The Library is also encouraged to participate in Library Legislation Day on Feb. 11th. Lisa is planning on attending and invited board members to join her.
    - An additional 3 or 3.5% raise was approved by the Village Clerk for Library Part-time staff.

Next Meeting: January 21, 2025 at 5:30 P.M.

Adjourn at 6:15 P.M.

* Nancy Baumgartner made a motion to adjourn.  Gary Stene seconded the motion.  Unanimously approved by the Board.