

**Elk Rapids District Library Board of Trustees
February 11, 2021 Meeting held via ZOOM
Annual Operating Budget Hearing**

1. Open Budget Hearing at 5:00pm

Discussion or questions:

President Johnson asked if the public had any comments or questions.

There were no public responses.

Atkinson asked regarding the expansion budget, Karen (Simpson) you mentioned at yesterday's meeting that you thought you could do \$1.5 million in income donations this year. Do you want to put that on the budget or leave it the way it is and see what happens? Simpson said yes, leave it the way it is and see what happens.

Hults asked Director Miller if the money in for Legal would cover the (annual)audit, and any actual other legal bills ? Miller said this budget hearing is just for the operating budget, not the expansion budget, we'll talk about that under budget approval in the meeting .

Johnson clarified for the public that they have to raise their hand in the chat if they want to speak.

Stephenson asked Miller regarding the budget if it would be less due to covid? Miller said she explained that in her budget notes, that the way we approached it is that they don't know if/when we will be fully open so they budgeted as if we will be. She budgeted much like this year. Hults pointed out that the income would be the same, Miller expressed that we may not spend the budget.

2. Public Comment/Questions

No one wished to speak

3. Close Budget Hearing

Motion: to close the budget hearing at 5:05 by Schuler/Hults

Roll Call:

Atkinson: Yes

Geddes: Yes

Hults: Yes

Johnson: Yes

Pollister Amos: Yes

Schuler: Yes

Simpson: Yes

Stephenson: Yes

Motion carried.

**Elk Rapids District Library Board of Trustees
Meeting 2.11.2021 Meeting Minutes
Immediately Following Budget Hearing**

1. Call to Order: By President Barb Johnson at 5:05 pm

Members Present: Barb Johnson, Dick Hults, Karen Simpson, Liz Atkinson, Tom Stephenson, Julia Pollister Amos, Chuck Schuler and Diane Geddes

Also Present: Director Nannette Miller. This is a meeting conducted on Zoom due to COVID. Zoom shows 28 attendants at the start of the meeting.

Members absent: None.

2. Approval of Agenda:

Simpson asked to add unfinished business: 7 d. Update on Audit
Simpson also asked to take off items 1 and 2 under Agenda item 11 a - the Strategic Plan, because they were not able to meet so they are not prepared to discuss. Miller pointed out that under that agenda item it could just be reported that they did not meet instead of taking it off the agenda because they are given to the committee. Schuler said that's fine, Stephenson said that works, Simpson said fine, Johnson said ok.

Motion : to approve the agenda as amended by Schuler/Stephenson (& Geddes)

Roll Call

Atkinson: Yes

Stephenson: Yes

Geddes: Yes

Hults: Yes

Johnson: Yes

Pollister Amos: Yes

Schuler: Yes

Simpson: Yes

Motion carried.

3. Public Comment: per the rules, identify oneself , residence, 3 minute maximum

Diane Richter said in regards to the items on tonight's agenda, this pertains to several items, I would like to simply quote this evening from the Record Eagle editorial board, Our View , from January and I quote " In fact we can't see many other ways to interpret "...we commit that as stated in our code of ethics, we must speak as one voice and will refer to our Library Director and our (Library Board) President as official spokespersons for any public or media situations or inquiries." Such bylaws and regulations instituted by public boards are decidedly undemocratic, and run counter to many of the most important underlying principles that ensure the health of our

representative government. For what purpose do we send representatives to govern on our behalf if they're not allowed to discuss their duties publicly?" Moving ahead - "Let's be honest, such rules instituted by public boards" (adding her own comments, Private Boards are allowed to do this because they are private, but when you become a public board with public money, you have different rules) So "Let's be honest, such rules instituted by public boards are about as misguided as they come. They are a wholesale misinterpretation of elected and appointed officials' duty to service constituents. Voters elect representatives to make decisions on their behalf, to stand for their values and interests on a given board. Too often we hear machinations from our representatives - including these gag order resolutions - that seem to invert the responsibilities of the people we elect. They should (would) have us believe the people we choose to serve in office are in place to serve the government or public institutions, but not their constituents. That's why we would encourage Elk Rapids District Library board members and any other elected officials who face attempts to curb their rights to free speech to reject those failings. Prohibiting our public officials from speaking freely about the workings of the governments they steer is simply unacceptable. No matter which label a public body chooses for such restrictions, the end result is the same - an erosion of our democratic values. " Thank you.

4. Approval of Minutes dated January 14, 2021

Motion: to approve the minutes by Schuler/Hults

Roll Call:

Schuler: Yes

Pollister Amos: Yes

Johnson: Yes

Geddes: Yes

Atkinson: Yes

Stephenson: Yes

Simpson: Yes

Hults: Yes

Motion carried.

5. Treasurer's Report and Approval of Bills:

Geddes read from the report as provided in the packet.

Motion: to approve the treasurer's report by Hults/Schuler

Roll Call

Simpson: Yes

Stephenson: Yes

Schuler: Yes

Hults: Yes

Atkinson: Yes

Geddes: Yes

Johnson: Yes

Pollister Amos: Yes

Motion carried

Geddes discussed the checks that need to be signed tomorrow if approved today. Miller pointed out that there are two lists, one that is operating budget and there is one that is from the Expansion Fund, so you will have to approve those separately.

Motion: to approve the checks for operating funds by Schuler/Stephenson

Roll Call:

Johnson: Yes

Schuler: Yes

Hults Yes

Geddes: Yes

Pollister Amos: Yes

Simpson: Yes

Atkinson: Yes

Stephenson: Yes

Motion carried.

Hults asked if the expansion budget will be sufficient to cover the audit and the legal bills since he expects to have to create on soon . Miller pointed out that this bill is being paid out of this year's budget and anything created later will be out of next year's budget.

Motion: to approve the checks for the Expansion Budget bill by Hults/Stephenson

Roll Call

Stephenson: Yes

Simpson: Yes

Schuler: Yes

Pollister Amos: Yes

Johnson: Yes

Hults; Yes

Geddes: Yes

Atkinson: Yes

Motion carried.

Motion: to approve the Expansion Financial P&L Budget vs Actual by Simpson/Atkinson

Roll call

Atkinson: Yes

Hults: Yes

Pollister Amos: Yes

Simpson: Yes

Stephenson: Yes

Johnson: Yes

Schuler: Yes

Geddes: Yes

Motion carried.

Pollister Amos asked if all financial reports that needed to be approved were and Miller stated that they were.

6. Correspondence: Johnson received a letter from Terri Hogarth saying she had wanted her letter read even though she did not say that in the letter. In the past we haven't read correspondence because it seems it would take a really long time. So we need to make a decision if we are going to read correspondence or we are not going to read correspondence . Everyone on the board gets the correspondence and everyone on the board knows what it says so I would like to open this up for discussions because Terri feels that her letter should have been read and she feels that everyone else's letter should be read. I did tell her that I did not think that she could approve someone else's letter being read. That would have to be... that she can't make decisions for others.

Discussion. Pollister Amos said she felt that if anyone takes the time to write a letter to us they should have the option to have it read in no matter how long it is. She also thinks that the Director's report should be read in every time because then it goes into the minutes in case someone doesn't look for her report separately. Anybody that takes the time to communicate with us deserves to have it in the minutes. Johnson stated that we do have it and you can include that with the minutes. Pollister Amos stated that she was talking about the published minutes that the public can read. Hults said if the author of the letter requests that it be read into the minutes, we do it. If they don't, the board reviews and accepts. So you don't have to read all... most of the people don't want it, or if they do , they'll state that. Simpson stated that she agreed - people come to the meeting to make public comment and most people that write a letter don't intend to do that, so that she thinks that if somebody does request we can do that but otherwise it's in the packet and it's part of what people can look up in the packet.

Motion: by Stephenson/Atkinson to read the correspondence if it is requested to be read.

Roll call

Geddes: Yes

Simpson: Yes

Stephenson: Yes

Johnson: Yes

Hults; Yes

Atkinson: Yes

Pollister Amos: Yes

Schuler: Yes

Motion carried.

Johnson said before the meeting today she had a request from Jim Janisse to forward a email on to the board members. This was done this afternoon at 4:20pm. I sent it to you as quickly as I could but , so I just want you to know that it's there because he wanted the board to see the email.

Johnson read the letter from Terri Hogarth. This letter will be included as a part of these minutes. " My husband Andy and I are residents of Milton Township. We are strongly in support of the Elk Rapids District Library. The staff and library director Nannette Miller have provided

professional, friendly and competent service to this community. We would like the attacks on them to stop. The expansion to the library is an important asset for the village and infighting will only negatively influence donations that will support this important enterprise. Terri and Andy Hogarth, 11942 East Elk Lake Trail, Rapid City."

This is the only letter that I had requested to read to the board. This was in another packet and we never read it, so I am just reading it because she asked me in this more recent email to read it.

7. Unfinished Business:

A: Capital Campaign shift to Friends

Simpson said we've been talking about moving the Capital Campaign to the Friends for a while. I do want to make a motion tonight, of course with the final vote from the Friends when they get together and I know Tony (Wittbrodt) is on here and I believe that if we do determine that we do want to move the Capital Campaign Committee to the Friends then they would have to have a special meeting. I think he's going to want to say a couple things, but we want to get the fundraising ... we've just been sort of sitting, waiting for the board to be able to work together and get behind this project 100%. I think that in the last couple of weeks, and even at our last meeting, I got a feeling I think, I don't know about everybody else, that the board is going to try to work together a lot better and move forward. We want to get the fundraising in a positive environment and get some forward momentum going again and have a positive working environment. Tony has been a really good leader since he's become chairperson. He is very much all about moving forward and supporting the library in any way that they can. There are certainly going to be some procedural, structural issues that we will have to deal with, but we would work very closely with the Friends, Tony and another person or two that would want to work with us to make sure that the transition is very smooth. And would also be able to address the hiring of professional services that we feel we would need including accounting and fund development and we would be able to focus immediately on articulating the vision again and making the strategy happen.

Motion: by Simpson/Schuler to move the Capital Campaign Committee to underneath the Friends board contingent upon the Friends voting favorably.

Discussion: Atkinson asked if Sharon Bacon was a Co-Chair with Tony. Simpson said, no, she's the Vice-Chair.

Wittbrodt said he's addressed the Elk Rapids Township board and the Milton Township board previously regarding this issue and I think everyone knows that the Friends position is whatever we can do to support the library board and its trustees and the things that they do we are willing to do, that my board is aware of this and we have discussed it previously in our last meeting, we don't meet again until April. At our last meeting I indicated there may be a special meeting we'll have to address regarding this particular move if, in fact, it does occur. So, we are certainly able to discuss it and willing to do whatever we can to support the library and its improvement to the physical structure.

Geddes asked if Nell Lockhart is out of the hospital? Wittbrodt said he talked to Nell 3-4 times,

she's amazing for almost 90 years old, who had Covid , who was in the hospital , had to go to a rehab center, she's now home . Her daughter was with her for a number of weeks after and Nell essentially told her to go home - I'm fine. She sounds great. Nannette confirmed that she has been to the library picking up correspondence so she's doing fantastic.

Atkinson asked if we are approving the consideration of moving it because we don't have a lot of details on this yet since we don't know if the Friends want to take this over? Simpson said her motion was that it be moved contingent upon the Friends approving. Atkinson said it should be contingent on us getting more details before we approve it even with them saying they will take it over. She'd rather have more information as to what are they willing to do and how they are going to do it? Doesn't the board want more information before we approve it? Simpson said that the point was that we would work that out with the Friends, as we would be joining their organization and working under their board. We would work that out with the Friends and as I said before, we would certainly have to look at the operating agreement and make sure that works out and we would probably have some changes there . That would have to come back to the board and be approved by the board. Atkinson said so there's still more to do we're not just saying go ahead with it and that's it, okay she's fine with that.

Roll Call:

Hults: Yes

Johnson: Yes

Simpson: Yes

Schuler: Yes

Geddes: Yes

Stephenson: Yes

Atkinson: Yes

Pollister Amos: Yes , FTR: as long as it's contingent, we are not just going to do this

Motion carried.

7 B. Approve FY 2021-2022 Operating Budget

Motion: to approve the FY 2021-2022 Operating Budget by Schuler/Geddes.

Discussion: Hults asked Miller to reiterate again that she feels we will under spend due to the fact that we are not fully open. Miller said yes, basically. When you looked at that budget worksheet that I gave you last month we had not spent hardly anything in certain line items this year due to being closed for 3 months and then being open limited hours the other months, no in person programming and all of that. So we looked at what can we do next year and we don't know exactly when we can go back to full operation so we just said we would keep levels the same as last year. Sometimes I increased them, but I did not do that this year. There are some line items that we spend regardless, utilities and so on, but other line items we will under spend. Hults said he was good with that.

Roll Call:

Johnson: Yes

Pollister Amos: Yes

Hults: Yes

Schuler: Yes
Geddes: Yes
Simpson: Yes
Atkinson: Yes
Stephenson: Yes
Motion carried.

7 C. Approve FY 2021/2022 Expansion Fund Budget

Motion: to approve FY 2021-2022 Expansion Fund Budget by Schuler/Atkinson

Discussion: Miller said that now she could answer Hults' s question, but first wanted to say that as I reported in her budget notes , we based this on what was actually raised in 2020 and what was spent in 2020 so that's why it is what it is. There is \$10,000.00 in professional and legal and that should cover the audit and I think that we have paid about \$1,000.00 so far out of that so far this year so we will have whatever is left of that and then whatever legal fees we have throughout the year that are relating to the expansion project .

Roll Call:
Schuler: Yes
Johnson: Yes
Geddes: Yes
Atkinson: Yes
Stephenson: Yes
Simpson: Yes
Hults: Yes
Pollister Amos: Yes
Motion carried.

7 D. Update on Audit

Johnson talked to Aaron (Mansfield) and he can't move forward until he gets all of the information from the Friends group so he is waiting for that. Simpson said that Tony has some information. Wittbrodt said essentially the Friends have dropped the ball on this. He read all of the email requests relating to this and thought they were being addressed and they weren't. He talked to Aaron and the bank today . The bank will be sending a pdf of the information from November 2018 to the present to cover all of the accounts he needs to reconcile. Our treasurer , Nell, was comprised for a period of time. But it really is my fault and certainly I should shoulder all of the blame. But the process is taking place. He talked to Aaron today and he has the information and he'll be working on it forthwith.

8. New Business:

A. Amend FY 2020/2021 Operating Budget

Miller said if you noticed the proposed amendments there are three increases in expenses. On the pension she added \$300.00 because she believes we will go over it after we pay February's contribution, we had to add \$300.00 to software because we bought some extra software like

Zoom, and professional/contractual I had to add another \$5,000.00 bringing that total to \$25,000.00. That leaves us with a contingency of \$4,965.00.

Discussion: Hults asked for clarification on the contingency - it's the total of what's left over after all line items are spent in 2020/2021? Miller said yes, except this year she did not increase income that was more than budgeted for and did not reduce the line items, that worksheet is not with me, but I did not do it as closely, but we did not spend that much, as it says. Hults asked if there was a rough number on what the operating surplus was over budget? Miller replied no, that only comes out in the audit, last year it was \$60,000.00, so she is expecting that it will be more than that this year. Hults asked where that funding goes? Miller said if it's not used, it sits in the fund balance. Hults said it shows up as an increased asset in the balance sheet - right? Miller said that was right, that's why we have \$700,000.00 in assets right now. Geddes said we get much of our income at this time of year from the winter taxes. Miller said that will be coming in... *inaudible words*... That's why, if you look at the budget vs actual report you will see that we have not brought in nearly all of the taxes we are supposed to this fiscal year because we get them now and we get them into March. So, those get added back to the year by the auditor at the end of the year. Hults stated that (Elk Rapids) township paid the library today. Atkinson said that (Milton) township was paying it tomorrow.

Motion: to approve the by Stephenson/Simpson

Roll Call

Johnson: Yes

Pollister Amos; Yes

Hults: Yes

Schuler: Yes

Geddes: Yes

Simpson: Yes

Atkinson: Yes

Stephens: Yes

Motion carried.

8 B. Election of Officers for FY 2021/2022

Johnson nominated the following slate of officers:

President: Tom Stephenson

V P: Chuck Schuler

Secretary: Julia Pollister Amos

Treasurer: Diane Geddes

Motion: to approve slate as stated by Simpson/Schuler

Roll Call:

Pollister Amos: No

Schuler: Yes

Johnson: Yes

Hults: Yes

Simpson: Yes

Geddes: Yes

Stephenson Yes
Atkinson: Yes
Motion carried.

8 C. Adopt Annual Calendar

Motion: to approve the annual calendar by Simpson/Geddes

Roll Call

Simpson: Yes
Stephenson Yes
Schuler: Yes
Hults: Yes
Atkinson: Yes
Geddes: Yes
Johnson: Yes
Pollister Amos: Yes
Motion carried.

8 D. Set Meeting Schedule

Question from Johnson: Would you like to have it earlier? Pollister Amos asked if recording secretary Nicholson would be available before 5pm and she works so she would not be. Pollister Amos stated that because of that she would prefer it stays at 5pm. Verbal agreement was that it will stay at 5 pm because she does a fantastic job and we don't want to loose her.

Motion: to approve the meeting schedule as presented (*garbled*) Atkinson/Hults

Atkinson: Yes
Hults; Yes
Simpson: Yes
Stephenson: Yes
Schuler: Yes
Johnson: Yes
Pollister Amos: Yes
Geddes: Yes
Motion carried.

9. Director's Report

As presented by Miller - She added the library will be open by appointment again starting Monday February 15th. People can come in maximum 4 at a time for up to 15 minutes. There will be 3 - 15 minutes periods allowed with the 4th being for cleaning. People can come in , browse books, check books out, and use a computer. They can use the photo copier. Once we have Friends volunteers coming in to stock the Book Cellar we will allow them their to go down there during their appointment time. We will also continue to have the lobby pick up for people who prefer not to come in. We have a awful lot of people who are grateful we are doing that. We will also have all the magazines and newspapers out in the free basket because those are things that we can't really quarantine. The other thing is, I did mention to you our shelving issues and we now have in place the extenders on top of the fiction shelves and the big job now is shifting

all of the books which is a huge job so we will get started on that. I have a very, very creative staff and they have come up with some other ways free up space in other certain areas. So we are doing the best that we can. If the Book Cellar is open we will begin inventory and start weeding as we need to and, hopefully, when we are open full time more of our books will be out. Right now circulation is low and so too many are in on the shelves and we don't have room.

10. Standing Committee Reports

A. Personnel Committee: Pollister Amos, Schuler, and Stephenson

Pollister Amos said the committee met twice. The first time with Tom, Nannette, Chuck and myself and the second time with Chuck, Nannette and myself . We have come up with some suggested goals for Miller, but I need to confirm with Tom since he wasn't at that meeting. So we will report those once we have confirmed, have Nannette sign the form , put it in her personnel file and report to you next month.

10 B. Financial Committee: Geddes Schuler Miller

No report

11. Ad Hoc Committee Reports

A. Strategic Plan Committee: Simpson, Miller, and Stephenson

- 1) Culture Audit and Resolution
- 2) Relevance and Importance of Strategic Plan

Simpson reported that they were not able to meet this month so will report next month.

Simpson requested that the Building Committee report (11C) come before the Capital Campaign Committee report and asked Hults if he minded. Hults said he did not.

11 C. Building Committee: Hults, Schuler, Miller

Hults said he had real good news to report. Chuck and I met in a preliminary meeting with Bill Cooper and then Chuck and I with Cooper and Jim Janise and the new (Village) manager Bryan (Gruesbeck) and they have made substantial progress to the point that the lease that we produced for their initial review from Foster & Swift I believe has been preliminarily accepted and ironed out in our meetings of a couple hours. Cooper is going to structure the lease with some minor changes in the wording and submit for review by the Village legal and depending on what their suggestions or changes are it will come back and I'll will go over it and send it to Scott Hogan at Foster & Swift. The only thing that deviates from this plan is that Barb and a couple of you know I asked for permission to speak with Hogan At Foster Swift but, upon consideration , I decided to save the money and just iron it out as best Chuck and I could it which I think worked out just fine so hopefully we can to reduce the amount of time on the legal review on the lease that we originally submitted. I see that this will be accomplished in the next 30-60 days maximum. Schuler said the meeting was very, very positive and he feels real good about this. Atkinson said that was good news, but it didn't start off real positive and she is requesting to be put on the building committee. She was asked to attend that meeting to discuss the lease agreement to represent Milton Township. Milton Township's biggest number one issue has been

the inability to get this lease agreement to give us a good foundation for going forward but I was met very aggressively by the Village President (Janisse) and I was forbidden to attend the meeting when all I wanted to do was listen in and provide some Milton Township representation and I was shut down. I was given the choice to either leave or they were going to shut down the discussion. I chose to be the bigger person and say okay, it's more important to get the lease agreement nailed down and I don't understand the attitude but I think it ended well, so I guess that's the bigger picture. But, in going forward I hope this board recognizes being all inclusive is really important keeping everyone in communication with each another and being totally transparent, and the attitude that I got and behavior on yesterday morning was very inappropriate and extremely unprofessional. I think that it's important that we recognize this. It was very personal too, it wasn't about anything that I did task oriented or policy , it was very personal. I hope the board recognizes that and we never repeat this again.

Stephenson responded to Liz saying that he, Julia and Dick had talked previously and agreed that on all our committees there should be representation from all three governmental units . He suggested that Liz may have to take his spot on the personnel committee too. Schuler said it's Tom's job to appoint those people. Atkinson pointed out that starts at next month's meeting. Stephenson said he would look for volunteers.

Hults said he and Chuck would welcome Liz on the building committee. The more heads in the ring the better on this kind of thing. Johnson said we need to have people outside the board on the building committee. We need to involve the public in this. When we make our committees for this building we want to involve the whole community, so she thinks it great that we have you and Dick but we also need to consider other people for the building committee. Hults said this should be more thoroughly discussed. Johnson said it was discussed when we were going through the approval of the expansion and that was one of the things we said - that we would involve the community so they can feel a part of this expansion and she thinks that's what we need to consider with the building committee. Hults asked what is your scope of this? Are you talking about 2-3 more people and from what municipalities or from where? What's your idea? He wasn't around during that generation. Johnson said the idea is to have people who have been involved in building and construction and put them on to the building committee so it was a true building committee. We would have board members , of course, but we do need to have people that have expertise and are from the community because that's what we are doing, we are building a community library and so we really need to think about people to be on this committee that are also part of our community. Any committee that we have that will be involved with the building whether it's a children's area committee, a teen area committee will need teens on that committee . It was very important that we include the community in building this library - we can't just do it ourselves. Simpson said this could be discussed the next time the committee gets together. Pollister Amos said she thought a little bit later down the pike since right now the committee is just focused on the lease. Atkinson said we are a ways off on those things and others verbally agreed.

Simpson said Liz is clearly upset about what happened and we all apologize and understand. I would suggest that you have a conversation about it so that you can air your feelings. Atkinson asked have a conversation with? She said she has a recording of the meeting and he called me a very derogatory name. If he wants to initiate something with me to apologize for that, I'm all

ears. I'm not as upset as I am baffled. She grew up with boys, all brothers, so she is used to being roughed up, but not at this age.

Hults said during his 40 some years in construction and project management building a building by committee is extremely, if not impossibly, difficult. The input if it's funneled back through the board, or the input suggestions are okay, but if and when we start digging a hole, it has to go to a specific point person or it's a disaster waiting to happen. Schuler agreed. Stephenson said single point of contact- we will address that. Simpson suggested that some community engagement , a couple of community engagement things. Stephenson stated as we get closer. Johnson reiterated the need to have the community involved. Miller suggested that at that point when the building committee meets, you post it and let the public come and have input. Others verbally agreed. Miller also asked if Karen is allowed to appoint people to her CCC committee why can't other committee chairs appoint whom they want? Schuler said because that's the job of the president. Miller pointed out that is not what is done with the CCC, why is there an exception? Schuler said this is something we will take up later on. Stephenson said this is something we will look at regarding the committees, representation and procedures that just need to be cleaned up. Miller agreed and reiterated that we need one person from every municipality on every committee. The problem with that is that Elk Rapids Township only has two people so they get hit harder. Stephenson said they are tough people. Johnson said let's let Tom deal with this at next month's meeting. Liz asked if she was not appointed at this meeting? Johnson said, no, we will wait for Tom.

11C. Capital Campaign Committee: Simpson

Simpson said she wanted Hults to speak first because everything seemed positive, other than Liz but the feedback that she got was positive and they are working together. They do feel they are going to be able to come to a resolution with the lease. That coupled with working with the Friends to move the Capital Campaign, she feels really positive and moving forward and gaining momentum again that we do greatly need that at this point in time.

11D. Policy Committee: Johnson, Geddes, and Miller

No report. They have not met.

12. Friends Report

Bacon said the Friends have not met either. We are very happy to know that the Book Cellar will soon be able to resume operations. Thanks to Judy Passen who has already contacted all of the Friends volunteers to try to start working to get the Book Cellar ready to open. We have to raise some money to pay our audit bill so the sooner the better.

13. Public Comment: Same rules as previous public comment

Char Gretel asked if we have a list of who is on the Capital Campaign Committee? Johnson said we have a couple lists that have been passed out. Gretel said she had not seen one Karen speaks of the committee having met and I am just wondering who is the committee? Simpson said she will send a list out to the board again. Gretel asked that it also be sent to her library email please.

Terri Kuffner thanked Pollister Amos for the quality of her minutes , please don't change them. There is no question as to what took place, what happened and what's said when you write the minutes. The village has a lot to learn from what you have done. Thank you. If there will be a public representative for the building committee, I'd like to nominate Diane Richter. I don't know anyone that is more factual, more truthful, and has researched everything more than that woman. I think she has a lot to say to you and you could learn a lot from her and if there was ever a board person or a public person to do what you are asking it would be her. Transparency is the key to everything. And, Atkinson, you do a great job.

Jane Stauffer said thanks to Schuler and Hults for making the effort to come to some agreement if possible on the lease. I think that's been hanging out there and you hear all these things on the Record Eagle and it's good to know there is progress and it's moving forward. Thank you very much for making me feel some encouragement about what is going to happen with the library.

14. Board Comments:

Simpson thanked Schuler and Hults for their work on the building committee.

Pollister Amos looks forward to have Stephenson as the president. He gets stuff done.

Atkinson said since she's not being appointed to the building committee tonight for whatever reason tonight I don't know, is she approved by the library board to attend any future meetings? Johnson said she will let Stephenson handle this as he will be president in about two minutes so I will let him deal with it at our next meeting. Atkinson asked if Stephenson would be a board president in two minutes? Johnson said Tom would be once she was off. Atkinson said she guessed she could wait. Johnson said he's not going to do it in two minutes, we need to give him some time to... Miller pointed out that Tom is not president until March 1st. Until the March meetings. Atkinson asked the board how they felt about her participating in building committee meetings or is she supposed to wait until March? Simpson said she didn't have a problem, Pollister Amos and Stephenson said they didn't either. Hults said it's good but a meeting wasn't anticipated until March 1st and he would send her all of the documents that have been and will be shared. Atkinson said ok, and reiterated that this has been the biggest issue with the Milton Township Board so it's been a long road.

Pollister Amos said she disagreed strongly and thinks the way Atkinson was treated was disrespectful at best , she'd like to use a word stronger than that, because of that she should be appointed now so if she has any questions she has a right to ask them. It's the right thing to do. Atkinson agreed. Johnson said that she felt Dick would include her and she wouldn't make any more appointments and she was ready to adjourn the meeting if everyone else is ready to adjourn the meeting.

Motion: by Pollister Amos/ Hults (& Stephenson) that the board request Johnson to immediately appoint Atkinson to the Building Committee

Pollister Amos asked for discussion if Barb's not going to do it. It's not fair Barb. She was treated badly.

Johnson said I know she was treated badly, but it isn't our fault. We did not treat her badly.

Putting her on the committee doesn't mean that she wasn't treated badly. I know she was treated badly, I'm sorry that she was treated badly, but I have no control over that. Simpson asked if Barb just wanted to appoint her, because Barb heard from most of us that we are fine with it and we don't think it's a big deal that you just do that.

Geddes asked if we can vote on things that are not on the agenda. Pollister Amos stated that Johnson can appoint to committees at any point in time. She doesn't need a motion to do that. I was just trying to stop her from adjourning the meeting. Simpson agreed and we don't have to vote. Pollister Amos reiterated that she thinks it's the right thing to do. Stephenson said that he was going to appoint her so he thinks Johnson should just appoint her.

Johnson appointed Atkinson to the building committee but stated again that she didn't think we should be doing that because she had a confrontation that wasn't our fault.

15. Adjournment

Motion by Schuler/Hults to adjourn the meeting at 6:16 pm by voice vote.

Respectfully,
Julia Pollister Amos
Secretary, Elk Rapids District Library Board