

Board of Trustees Special Meeting Minutes

March 18, 2026

Attended by trustees Colin Hagadorn, Margaret Hartley, Josh Jaquard, Beth Teitel and Janice Waterhouse, Library Manager Marion Allan and Library Clerk Claire Spivak.

Presiding: President Janice Waterhouse

Janice Waterhouse called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m. and led the board in the Pledge.

Waterhouse moved to adopt the agenda. Margaret Hartley seconded. Carried

Library manager's presentation of budget proposals

Marion Allan presented nine budget scenarios to the board, showing increases of between \$10,000 and \$80,000. Her suggestion, based on her research, was an increase of \$60,000 in taxpayer funding as the best way to preserve the library's long-term financial stability and continued growth. She said she had made some minor cuts in the proposals that would not dramatically impact the services that the library has offered and the community has enjoyed.

Waterhouse commended Allan for her efforts, noted that the board had had a chance to review the nine proposals, and said the first step was for the board to vote on whether to seek a tax increase. Beth Teitel moved to request a tax increase. Hartley seconded. During discussion, Josh Jaquard asked Allan what cuts her proposed budgets included, and Allan noted a \$3,000 cut in book purchases and other smaller cuts, but no cuts in payroll. Reducing staff would mean reducing services, she said. Teitel expressed the view that the budget problems the library has are the result of not having any increases for years despite inflation and that there is a clear need for increased revenue. Hartley said she was also in favor of an increase. Jacquard said payroll is too high a percentage of the total budget, creating a structural problem. Vote: Hartley, Teitel and Waterhouse voted in favor of seeking an increase in the tax revenue. Jacquard voted against. Hagadorn abstained. Carried.

Waterhouse made a motion to approve the proposed budget with a \$60,000 increase in taxpayer funding, for a total of \$250,000. Teitel seconded.

Discussion: Hagadorn said he didn't think the taxpayers would approve, and said any increase was particularly unfair to the residents of Stony Creek and Day. Jacquard said he scoffed at the idea of any increase. Allan noted comparable library budgets in the region and noted that Rockwell Falls had not had an increase in funding since 2019, despite inflation that increased significantly during Covid. Jacquard said if the library had had a yearly 2% increase since 2019 that would equate to a \$37,000 increase, and

suggested asking for \$60,000 was greedy. Hartley asked if he would be in favor of a \$40,000 increase; Jacquard said he was not in favor of any increase. Waterhouse called for a vote on the motion on the table. Hartley, Teitel and Waterhouse voted in favor of seeking an \$60,000 increase in funding for the library. Jacquard and Hagadorn voted against. Carried.

Adjournment

Hagadorn voted to adjourn the meeting. Jacquard seconded. Carried.

The next regular board meeting will be on April 14 at 6:30 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Board Secretary Margaret Hartley