

Georgia Public Library
1697 Ethan Allen Highway
Georgia, Vermont 05454
(802) 524-4643
www.georgiapubliclibraryvt.org
gplvt@yahoo.com



Library Trustees
Ben Ebert, Chair
Deb Woodward, Vice Chair
Sara Walker, Secretary
Bob Giroux, Treasurer
Margot Vanscoy, At Large

Georgia Public Library Trustee Meeting
Tuesday, November 14th, 2023 6:00 - 8:00 pm
Location: Georgia Public Library
Minutes - APPROVED

Attendance: Ben Ebert, Sara Walker, Bob Giroux, Margot Vanscoy, Bridget Stone

1. Called to order at 6:02
2. Opportunity to add or remove items
3. Public Appearances: N/A
4. Secretary's Report: Deb was not present due to a family emergency. Minutes from September meeting will be approved at our December 5th meeting
5. Treasurer's Report:
 - a. Budget status 83% of year complete, budget on schedule. No expected large end of year purchases.
 - b. Budget meeting review: Bob and Bridget put together a great presentation to the Selectboard. Our budget proposal would bring the Library up to the level of service and staffing appropriate to a town of our size. This was informed by data from the state and would be increase of 60-70% to our current appropriation. The selectboard requested a 5% increase budget, which would require sizeable cuts to services, programming, new book purchases, and online services. We do not recommend the smaller budget as it will negatively affect patron access and experience.
6. Library Director's Report:
 - a. Library Credit Card: The library will be receiving a debit card for purchases. Concerns were raised as to the security of a debit card vs credit card.
 - b. Leave reconciliation: Ben will draft a memo to the selectboard regarding vacation time. In January, 2023 the Trustees approved an increase to Bridget's vacation time from 2 weeks to 3 weeks per year. This was not implemented at the town level which has created a discrepancy in reporting that needs to be resolved.
7. Old (unfinished) Business:
 - a. Fringe Payback: Ben will draft a memo stating that the unpaid benefits will be covered by the Library salary line.
8. New Business:
 - a. Recognition of Excellence: The Board would like to recognize Bridget Stone and the GPL Staff for their continued and outstanding work on behalf of the Town of Georgia. The Vermont Library Association has selected Bridget as "one of the remarkable Librarians for smaller libraries who have made a significant impact within their community." The Association was particularly impressed with the creativity and community focus of the GPL's programming as well as affirming the GPL as a safe and welcoming space. Great job, Bridget!

9. Executive Session, if needed: A public body may only enter executive session upon a majority vote on a motion made in an open meeting that indicates the reason for going into executive session.¹
10. Public Comment:
11. Concerns for the Selectboard: (NONE or list concerns)
12. Confirm date of next meeting: December 5th, 2023, 6-8pm at the Library
13. Adjourned at 7:15

¹ The only permissible reasons for going into executive session are set forth in 1 V.S.A. § 313. One category, requires the public body to make a specific finding that “premature general public knowledge would clearly place the public body or a person involved at a substantial disadvantage” prior to considering one of the following in executive session: contracts; labor relations agreements with employees; arbitration or mediation; grievances, other than tax grievances; pending or probable civil litigation or a prosecution, to which the public body is or may be a party; or confidential attorney-client communications made for the purpose of providing professional legal services to the body. Other things a public body may consider in executive session are: The negotiating or securing of real estate purchase or lease options; The appointment or employment or evaluation of a public officer or employee, provided that the public body makes its final decision to hire or appoint a public officer or employee in an open meeting and must explain the reasons for its final decision during the open meeting; A disciplinary or dismissal action against a public officer or employee; but nothing in this subsection shall be construed to impair the right of such officer or employee to a public hearing if formal charges are brought; A clear and imminent peril to the public safety; Discussion or consideration of records or documents that are not public documents under the access to public records act. However, when the board discusses or considers the excepted record or document it may not also discuss the general subject to which the record pertains; The academic records or suspension or discipline of students; Municipal or school security or emergency response measures, the disclosure of which could jeopardize public safety. <https://www.sec.state.vt.us/media/514454/A-GUIDE-TO-OPEN-MEETINGS.pdf>