**VIA Board Meeting**

May 21, 2024

**Attendance**: Bill Heffernan, Susan Walker, Catherine Bushman, Colleen Baile, Pat Donnelly, Michelle Bernardi, Charlie Gunning, Alan Olenick, Bill Lang, Leonard Adams, John Galvin, Mary Malenda

Bill called the meeting to order at 5:02pm. Len made a motion to accept the minutes of the April meeting, Charlie seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

**Director’s Report**: Colleen reported that the Accounting temp is working out well so far. Since our request for $1.83 million which we requested for FY25 will be approved in full, we will advertise in June for a part time custodian and a part time assistant to fill in the gaps from Amy and Deb leaving.

We are $75,000 over budget at the moment since we are still waiting for the AARP DN funds to be sent to us. We have budgeted for $8,500 in repairs and have spent $31,000 not including maintenance contracts. In addition, there have been staff increases and legal fees with negotiations and having to pay higher cost in supplies, all of which have resulted in in our being over budget.

Colleen said that she has been told that the ARPA funds will be released on 6-2-24 and checks will be sent. She said that she will send more invoices once that happens because we need to order more laptops.

Colleen met with Carroll Brown who expressed interest in 1 Forest Rd and asked about collaborating with the library.

She thanked all who attended the documentary screening on 5-17-24. The capital campaign kicked off with the Heffernan family’s very generous donation of 100K to the Allington project and the Friends of the Library check from the Rotary of 2K.

She reported that she met with Dawn Lavalle from the state library after attending the construction grant webinar. She was told that CIF and state grants not being combined because the state looks at both funds as coming from the same place and you cannot have grants with both. We have options to consider with extensions and possibly applying from CIF and then sticking with the one with the higher amount,

The 78K network upgrade paid for through grant funds will begin this week. More network drops will be added just at the Main to 100. They will add the new equipment first and then do a cutover to the new equipment.

**Assistant Director’s Report**: Catherine reported that there were nine scholarship applicants this year. Four were chosen by the VIA Scholarship Committee. The checks will be given to each student June 11 at the Main Library. She attended the May Day Emergency Preparedness Basics zoom program presented by CT Coordinated Statewide Emergency Preparedness team. We already have a disaster plan but Catherine felt that it is always good to refresh the material.

She reported that she has been helping to train the new person in the Accounting office. She also attended the Head Start Policy Council review meeting on May 2 and the final regular policy council meeting on May 14.

Catherine said that she met with Maria Tonnelli, Department Head at Ora Mason and discussed programs and staffing.

**Treasurer’s Report**: Charlie said that we are 71K in the hole. He said that if the market goes over 40 by June 30, we can take 31K and put it into the budget. Motion was made to approve and seconded by Alan. The motion passed unanimously.

**Friends:** Pat reported that as of April 30 the balance was $6079 and an additional $2050 was received from the Rotary. She said that the Friends now have 60 members and membership fees totaled $1467. Pat said that there will be another book sale at the end of August.

**Old Business:** The state cannot combine the CIF grant and the state grants. Bill said that he is meeting with the Mayor Thursday morning.

**New Business:** Capital Campaign representatives have spoken to most people and intends to go after UNH, New Alliance and others.

The meeting adjourned at 5:34.