**VIA Meeting**

**August 15, 2023**

**Attendance:** John Galvin, Bill Lang, Bill Heffernan, Colleen Bailie, Charlie Gunning, Lenny Adams, Curt Hodgkins, Elaine Khu, Alan Olenick, Mary Malenda, Gwen Haley

Bill called the meeting to order at 5pm. Minutes of the 6-20-23 were accepted unanimously.

**Director’s Report** – Colleen Bailie

Colleen reported that union negotiations are in full swing with meeting scheduled through August. All staff reviews have been completed for FY23. She reported that a full day meeting is scheduled for August 25. The library will be closed for that day.

Due to the recent heavy rainfalls, there has been flooding in Ora Mason’s elevator shaft. Mike and Enrique are looking into sump pumps that could be installed to correct the issue.

The fence issue at the Main is not yet resolved. It looks as if the new sale of the property will occur at the end of August when we will take care of the deed for the parcel and payment.

Our City Council liaison intends to put the library on the agenda of MARBs meeting on September 7. Colleen will speak to them on why a library is vitally important in Allingtown. The hope is that this will be the last hurdle on getting our ARPA funds released.

The Giving Collaborative will be giving a brief presentation at a staff meeting on August 25 about the capital campaign. Colleen will be meeting with Don and Dave on August 18 to discuss next steps in the campaign.

Documentary will be filmed on October 19th,

The September Board meeting will be held a week early on September 12th because Colleen will have shoulder on September 19th. She will out of work for 2 ½ weeks and will work ½ days for another two weeks.

**Treasurer’s Report** Charlie reported that we are $32,000 in the red. The employee payroll tax was budgeted for $63,000 and the actual cost was $85,000. The security guard was budgeted for $40,000 and actually cost $50,000. He said that the legal charges are very high. A discussion took place as to the reason for the high legal charges. The Treasurer’s report was approved unanimously.

Friends reported that there will be a book sale on September 9.

**Old Business** MARB wants a report on the feasibility of building new fire houses in the city. Allingtown is on hold. They are making progress on 668 Orange Ave because they were able to get the City Attorney to move things along. The attorney said that there is a $38,000 fee on the property. If the State will waive the fee, the city can turn the property over. There was a discussion of the possibility of our buying out the $38,000 if the state does not waive the fee. We have been trying to contact Martineau for a price on buying his two lots. There has been no response. Bill said that we have a tentative agreement with the fire department but we may walk away if they take too much time. If we can get the property at 668, we can build a one-story library. Everything is up in the air.

**New Business** We have received two bids for the auditor. Both parties have worked with libraries in the past. John Galvin suggested going with the least expensive one – Hoyt. The fee would be $9,500 per year for two years and $10,000 for 2025. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Board went into Executive Session at 5:32pm and out at 5:39pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Mary Malenda Secretary