

Town Of Millbury
Meeting & Agenda Notice
Board of Trustees Millbury Public Library

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16 MAY 13 AM 10:55
MILLBURY, MASS.

Date: 03/15/2016

Time: 6:03pm

Location of the Meeting: Millbury Public Library Meeting Room

Meeting Type: Regular X Special Emergency

Present: Jeff Raymond, Michael Hranek, Bob Laut, Rita Sullivan, Paul DiCicco, Elizabeth Valero

Absent: Carol Burke

Call to Order: Rita Sullivan called the meeting to order.

Guests: Representative Paul Frost and Senator Michael Moore joined us to discuss the state budget, specifically for the state library funding. We discussed some of the priorities, the consensus of the Board is that state aid to public libraries is the priority for us on a local level. We explained the issues with the lack of a children's librarian in town and how it impacts services.

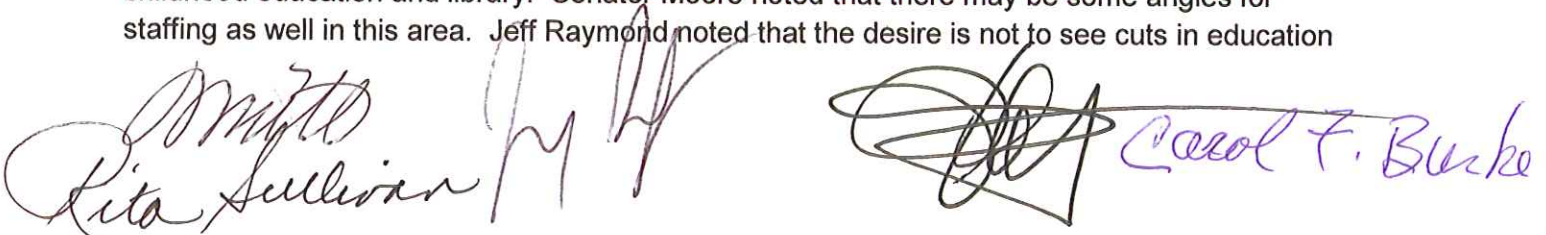
Senator Moore noted that revenues for February came in roughly \$122 million short. Much of the budget is eaten up by health care and contractual obligations. There was discussion about the ability to earmark for local communities, and that might not be available this year with the revenue projections. With the issues in place, Moore is pessimistic about any increases in this area.

Michael Hranek noted that we're also looking for suggestions for future years. Senator Moore thought about tying in library work with early educators and the importance of funding libraries with the needs of early education. With the push for early education program funding, there may be some ability for cost savings and community use. He recommended reaching out to some of the local organizations for early education. Senator Moore also mentioned reaching out to the regional Head Start.

Jeff Raymond asked if other boards had asked about similar issues, and Senator Moore noted that they hear a lot from other boards.

Rita Sullivan asked about more details regarding Head Start program. Representative Frost noted it's mostly a federal program that gets federal dollars, and agreed that this might be something to reach out toward.

Representative Frost noted that there might be an angle to work out budgets with early childhood education and library. Senator Moore noted that there may be some angles for staffing as well in this area. Jeff Raymond noted that the desire is not to see cuts in education


Rita Sullivan
Carol F. Burke

as a result, but Representative Frost noted that the discussion in that area could happen for anything that results in a state budget increase.

Representative Frost noted that we may just need to look at it from a fundraising aspect, especially if there is no room for a one-year amendment. Spoke of issues with local earmarking, and how year-after-year can be a problem. Senator Moore detailed some examples of other issues that situations as noted have created. Representative Frost also noted that budget money doesn't always get released in a timely manner.

Paul DiCicco asked about indexing the state funding to inflation. Representative Frost noted that they could file a bill for it on our behalf, but the result may be that there will be cuts anyway, and you cannot be bound by law that you cannot cut. Representative Frost was unsure if the legislature could even legally bind future budgets, while Senator Moore was of the belief that it could be explored. Representative Frost believes it might be unconstitutional, and will explore it further for us. The one rule in the state constitution regarding the budget is that it must be balanced, so there are many situations in play.

Representative Frost noted that they could put something forward for is, and Paul DiCicco feels it would be favorable. Senator Moore feels that a legislature that could not index transportation funding to inflation would not be open to indexing for library funding. Senator Moore recommended going to the Massachusetts Library Association to work with them to ensure everyone is on the same page. Senator Moore asked if there was a "library caucus" in the state house, Elizabeth Valero was unsure if one existed. We also discussed issues of possibly working through an MLA lobbyist.

Paul DiCicco thanked both guests for their time.

Minutes: Michael Hranek noted a correction to the fourth paragraph of the February minutes to note that we, as a board, were looking to get funding *indexed* to inflation.

Rita Sullivan moved to accept the minutes as amended, Michael Hranek seconded. No discussion, unanimous acceptance.

Chairman's Minute: Deferred.

Director's Report: MLA is in Hyannis in May. Elizabeth Valero will be attending.

There will be a creature event for kids on 3/18.

Old Business: Long Range Plan meeting will be in June, and the library will be putting out a call to the community. The board discussed options for Long Range Plans ideas, like makerspaces and cultural center concepts. Bob Laut asked if the state library has a long range plan, and Elizabeth Valero will look into it.

New Business: 2 people attended the adult coloring event.

The board discussed the next "office hours" event and talked about perhaps piggybacking on a summer reading event when parents will already be dropping their kids off for an existing event.

We discussed the library budget requests. The request appears to have made it in the budget, pending town meeting approval.

We talked about a possible recruit for the open seat, Christine Brady, on the board, and she will be looking to be elected on the upcoming ballot. The election is on April 26. Michael Hranek did not pull papers, but will likely run a write-in to continue serving to keep the seat filled.

Elizabeth Valero mentioned that she was going to trial a new Recorded Books option. Jeff Raymond asked about circulation on the audio collection, and Elizabeth Valero will find that information for us.

Paul DiCicco asked about the usage and cost of the newspaper subscription, and the costs are not much and they do get used. Bob Laut asked if there is a consortium of sorts to pool subscriptions, and such things exist but it hasn't been explored.

Adjournment: Michael Hranek moved to adjourn, Bob Laut seconded. Adjourned at 7:51.