

Weston Public Library
Special Meeting Budget Committee
Wednesday, December 16, 2020
2:00 PM via Zoom

Draft Minutes

Attendance: Anne Hunt, Lori Goertz, Sharon Murphy, Amy Sanborn, Cyprian Toczek, Karen Tatarka

Meeting called to order at 2:03 PM

1. Discussion of FY 2021-2022 Library Budget Request:

Director Tatarka reviewed with the Committee her proposed operating and capital budgets and the accompanying narrative for the FY 2021-2021 in anticipation of the Library Board meeting on January 5th and the meetings with Town officials on January 7th and January 12th, if necessary.

Director Tatarka delineated which numbers in the operating budget are provided by the Town. These include Salaried and Wages, cleaning, Telecommunications, electricity, and heating. The Committee discussed the request for two additional part-time positions as was requested for the FY 2020-2021 budget (denied). Given the current understaffing on a per capita basis compared to comparable area libraries, the Committee determined that we should support this request again for next year given that with current FTE level, the staff are currently unable to satisfy patron needs at an appropriate level. The Committee discussed that Training and Professional Development at the level requested will continue to require funding from the WPL Board. Similarly, while there is an increase in the level of programming funding requested based on current demand, this, The Friends of the Library and the Board will need to continue to augment this amount to satisfy patron programming needs. In the Equipment line, Director Tatarka explained that she is requesting the purchase of various equipment to enable the provision of virtual programming, which will continue post-pandemic, in a more efficient way. This equipment will be shared among the staff and will be available and for programs held in the Makerspace. Additionally, there is a request to extend the wireless mesh system to the back parking lot to satisfy the need to use the Library's WiFi when there is a Town emergency or the Library is closed. Additionally, Director Tatarka reviewed the Subscriptions and Memberships line explaining the reduction. Finally, Director Tatarka explained the materials line item. The Library continues to lag behind comparable communities in its budget per capita for Library materials. The demand for digital resources during the pandemic has exacerbated this funding gap with increased cost of digital materials compared to physical materials and an increase in the wait period for digital books to be available.

The Capital Budget includes replacement of 41 of the 1980s windows with broken seals.

The proposed FY 2021-2022 will be discussed with the Library Board at its meeting on January 5, 2021.

2. Adjournment:

Member Hunt made a motion to adjourn at 3:07 PM. Second by Member Murphy. Motion carried unanimously.

Due to technical/internet issues, it was determined after the meeting that the Zoom recording of this meeting is unavailable.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Sanborn
Secretary