

RUTLAND FREE LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Supplemental Meeting February 6/2024
Meeting at Rutland Free Library Meeting Room and via Zoom

Attending: Joe Bertelloni ___X___; Candice Britt ___X___; Matt Britt ___X___; Barry Cohen ___X___; Kevin Coleman ___A___; Clare Coppock ___X___; Allyn Kahle ___X___; Sarah Marcus ___A___; Carolyn Meub ___A___; Matt Olewnik ___X___; Joanne Pencak ___X___; Jonathan Reynolds ___A___; John Skinner ___A___; Ken Watson ___X___; Randal Smathers ___X___; Amy Williams ___X___ (X is present, A is absent)

Presiding: Barry Cohen Secretary: Clare Coppock

Barry reported that the library grant application has launched on 1/30/24. It is due on 3/12/24, but the plan is to have it ready by 3/5/24 so tweaks can be made if necessary. Elisabeth Kulas is working closely to help make this happen. The range of the grant is \$300,00 to \$1.4 million, which is significantly less than we were hoping for. We hope to know the result by April. We currently have \$1.3 million put aside, but this is on the low end of what we need, which could be as high as \$7-8 million. We need to go on record to the state as to what we want to propose to the state.

Clare made a motion that we “go for the Gold”---that we put forth the larger scope of the project in our grant application. Matt B seconded the motion.

Discussion: work that is in process includes a Survey to the broader community to condition our public to the “bigger picture”, hoping we are not aiming too low. The results will be included in the grant application

Matt B said we need to let the community know the work that has been done, including the deficiency of the current building and the research that has been done

Randal presented a spreadsheet with Option 1 and Option 2. There are several variables in the project. If we just do the basic things, the project will cost around \$4 million, The expensive options include the elevator (\$800,000 to \$1.2 Million), children’s room \$500,000, buying/upgrading the GCC parking lot ?, upgrades to building envelope with hazmat mitigation \$50,000-250,000, soft costs \$300,000 to 670,000, relocation cost \$100,00-200,000, misc costs \$250,000, contingency ?\$???, To cover these costs, this may necessitate a city bond of \$4.2 million.

Any concerns from the board?

Allyn: do we know how the city feels about the bond? Barry has spoken with the mayor to give him a heads up, and he said there could possibly be other ways to make this work, but he said he doesn’t want this put out there prior to the 3/5/24 election.

Matt: Does the city have a say, since this is a city owned building Yes, the mayor actually brought this up

Amy: Looks like we have various options out there. can we add the survey to social media to get more participation? Amy sent the QR code to all board members, asking them to share on their social media. If the cost question comes up, tell them a grant application is in process

Vote on the motion to put forth the larger scope of the project was **unanimous**

Next Steps: We need letters of support from the 5 towns for our grant application with no strings attached. Barry will reach out to each of the town's representatives on the RFL board to get these letters from the select boards.

Elisabeth and Randal have gone through the rubrik accompanying the grant application. Anyone who is interested in contacting GCC to negotiate an "agreement on principle".

There will be an open meeting with the community on Thursday, 3/29/24 at 5:30PM. Please try to attend, and encourage your friends to show up. This meeting is important to include with the application to show community support, so we need lots of participation.

Meeting adjourned 6:30 PM

Next Board Meeting: Wednesday__2/21/24_____ @ 5:15 pm