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DATE: August 24, 2022  
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*BELMONT PUBLIC LIBRARY*

*BELMONT, MASSACHUSETTS*

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES

June 27, 2022

Select Board Chair Mark Paolillo admitted the Trustees of the Belmont Public Library to the Select Board for a joint meeting. Library Trustees Chair Elaine Alligood called the joint meeting to order at 7:52 p.m. The meeting was held as a teleconference meeting through Zoom technology as a result of the Covid-19 related order preventing gatherings. Also present were Trustees Kathleen Keohane, Mark Carthy, Corinne McCue Olmsted, Mary Stearns and Director Peter Struzziero. Trustee Gail Mann did not attend.

### **AGENDA**

Vice Chair Keohane commented that she is pleased that the library can help the community with the distribution of COVID test kits this summer

#### **1. Joint Meeting with Belmont Select Board – Update on Library Building Project**

Library Director Struzziero said that FY 22 is one of the busiest years ever at the Belmont Public Library despite not offering evening hours until September 2021 or in-building programming until March 2022. He anticipates that FY 22 will be the second busiest year in the library's history, second only to the pre-Covid FY 19. He expects that library will surpass 600K in circulation of materials. The Library Director said this heavy usage is a testament to the staff and the patrons.

Vice Chair Keohane presented slides describing the steps taken and pending to get the library project on the November ballot. These slides and additional supporting materials are available on the library's web site. She spoke to several of the slides.

She commented on the slide showing that donations to date are ~\$2.9 M which will offset a portion of the cost of the library project. To date, 850 people have made contributions. These funds are for a new library and pledges are conditional on a positive vote in the fall. She said there are also efforts underway to apply for grants from businesses and foundations.

Vice Chair Keohane said that the current estimated cost of the new library building is \$39.5M, a slight downward revision from the estimate presented at the June Town Meeting. This estimate reflects increases on construction cost and additional required technology. It also includes a factor to account for market volatility due to the uncertainty of construction and materials cost.

Vice Chair Keohane said that, at the June 17th Trustees meeting, the Trustees voted unanimously to request the Select Board to place a vote on a debt exclusion for the new library building on the November ballot. The Library Trustees sought this joint meeting with the Select Board to request their endorsement to place the debt exclusion item on the November Ballot.

Select Board member Epstein spoke in support of the placing the debt exclusion item on the ballot. He also said that the need for a new library has been studied extensively for many years.

Select Board member Dash, liaison to the Trustees of the Belmont Public Library, said he is committed to having a vote for a debt exclusion on the November ballot. He added that the Library Trustees have done what is needed and this request is ready to go to the voters.

Select Board Chair Paolillo said he strongly supports putting a debt exclusion item on the November ballot.

Select Board Chair Paolillo asked the Town Administrator when the Select Board would take the formal vote on the November ballot items. The Town Administrator said the Select Board would vote on placing a debt exclusion item for the new library building on the November ballot at their July 25<sup>th</sup> board meeting in response to the request from the Library Trustees.

## **2. Adjourn**

Chair Alligood moved to adjourn the meeting and Vice Chair Keohane seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

## **Exhibits**

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