

**Pearle L. Crawford Memorial Library
Board of Trustees Meeting
Dudley Municipal Complex — Room 321
Thursday, November 9, 2023 — 6:15 pm
Meeting Minutes**

**Approved at the
12/5/23 Library
Trustees Meeting**



This meeting was recorded.

In attendance were trustees Ben Craver— Chair, Richard Clark, Adriana Buda, Kate Horne and Pat Korch— Secretary. Ms. Nierodzinski was absent.

Mr. Craver called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:08 p.m. stating that the meeting was being recorded.

Approval of amended minutes of September 26, 2023. Ms. Korch explained that there were additional amendments to the minutes.

Richard Clark made a motion to accept the amended minutes of the September 26, 2023 board meeting. Pat Korch seconded. Unanimous.

1. Vote on 30-hour Library Assistant position:

Ben Craver explained what he had learned of the 30-hour Library Assistant position posting. The Town Administrator said that we did not need to post externally if the internal staff member was qualified for the position.

The Interim Director, Cheryl Hansen, had the chance to meet with Courtney Ekstrom prior to this meeting and agreed that she was qualified for the position.

Pat Korch made a motion to approve hiring Courtney Ekstrom for the 30-hour, Grade III position of Library Assistant. Richard Clark seconded. Unanimous.

2. Update on Interim Director position

Richard asked about the start dates for Cheryl and Courtney. Ben explained that Cheryl would start on Tuesday, November 14 and Courtney could assume the position immediately. There was approval given by the Town Administrator to hire a part time circulation aide as long as our budget allowed it.

Ms. Hansen came to the Library to meet some of the staff members today, then left for a meeting with Richard Carmignani. She returned afterward to meet with the final staff member who had not been there earlier.

3. Update on Grade II Salary Appeal meeting

Mr. Craver explained what took place at the appeal meeting for Library Aide, Anne Ethier, who requested a position change to a Grade II Sr. Library Aide. Anne Ethier, Jon Ruda—Town Administrator, Ben Craver, Lida Carroll—Youth Services Librarian, and Pat Korch were in attendance.

After review of the written appeal and some questioning, Jon Ruda gave approval for Ms. Ethier to move up to a Grade II Senior Library Aide with an increase in her hourly pay amount.

Ms. Ethier stated that she will be available to work on Tuesdays to assist with filling needed hours until the staffing situation is resolved.

4. MBLC compliance follow-up

Ms Carroll was notified by the MBLC that the Library would not be considered in compliance until we submitted a form stating that the previous Library Director had left, and also a form on the hiring of an Acting Director.

Mr. Clark took the time to thank Ben Craver and Pat Korch for their part in keeping the ship afloat. Kate Horne concurred.

Mr. Clark made a motion to appoint Ben Craver as the short-term acting library director. Seconded by Ms. Buda. Unanimous.

Ben will send them forms in and speak with Mary Rose from MBLC to explain the library situation. Pat Korch will provide the form for notification of the hiring of Ms. Hansen as the Acting Director.

5. Board Comments

- Mr. Clark recognized the number of smiles around the table and hoped that was harbinger of good things to come. He also stated that there had been an economic development committee and CMRCP meeting regarding the development of West Main Street coming in from the Webster area and he hoped that this would be kept in mind when the Crawford Corner project began again. He felt that this would be a good fit.

- Ms. Korch thanked Adriana Buda for rounding up volunteer guest readers for the Monday evening story times. Mr. Craver explained his experience with supporting a story time with a nurse who served on the school committee as the guest reader, and stated that the nurse did an excellent job, and she had already rounded up a couple of school principals who were interested in coming to the Library to read. Ms. Buda stated that the number of children attendance would probably fluctuate depending on the week. Mr. Clark stated that bringing in new readers would help attract new people from the community into the Library.

Ms. Korch stated that some Dudley Firemen would be coming to the Library to do a story time at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 14.

- Ben Craver stated that he would tell Ms. Hansen that she had permission to move forward with the posting for hiring a part time circulation aide.

The next trustee meeting is Tuesday, December 5th.

Mr. Clark made a motion to adjourn at 6:27 p.m. Ms. Horne seconded. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted by Pat Korch, Secretary