



**BALDWIN PUBLIC LIBRARY MINUTES,
SPECIAL MEETING
February 28, 2025**

Call to Order and Roll Call:

The meeting was called to order by President Danielle Rumble at 4:00 p.m.

Library Board present: Wendy Friedman, Melissa Mark, Frank Pisano, Danielle Rumble, and Jennifer Wheeler.

Absent and excused: Karen Rock.

Library Staff present: Rebekah Craft, Director

Members of the public present: One in person. Four via Zoom.

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance following establishment of quorum.

Wheeler read aloud the Library's Mission Statement.

1. General Public Comment Period: One member of the public expressed thanks that the meeting was held on Zoom.
2. New and Miscellaneous Business:

Craft discussed the new contract for Administrative Services provided to the library on February 27. Craft had a virtual call with Anne M. Seurnyck of Foster Swift Collins & Smith, PC, on December 20, 2024 and received an Engagement Agreement from Seurnyck on January 16, 2025. The Engagement Agreement provides legal services on an as needed basis at the cost of \$255 per hour with no retainer. Craft expressed the need to have an independent attorney with experience in library law review the contract before the Library Board signs the agreement. Pisano shared his preference that Craft meet with Mark Clemence (Assistant City Manager) and Mark Gerber (Finance Manager) to discuss the contract first. Craft noted that she would prefer to meet first with a library attorney to discuss the contract and negotiate on behalf of the library.

Motion: To authorize Director Craft to sign the Engagement Agreement with Anne M. Seurnyck, Foster Swift Collins & Smith, PC, dated January 16, 2025.

1st Mark

2nd Rumble

Yeas: Friedman, Mark, Rumble, Wheeler.

Nays: Pisano.

Absent and excused: Rock.

The motion was approved.

One member of the public asked what other libraries are paying for the same type of services. Pisano noted that PA 164 libraries in the area are paying a range of fees, from no fee to 9%. Craft stated that Bloomfield Township Public Library, a library with a budget twice as much as Baldwin's is paying \$2,000 per month for services, plus \$7500 for HR software.

One member of the public expressed support of hiring an outside attorney to review this contract.

Craft discussed the Books & Bites fundraising committee's wish to hire David Goodman of Auction Results, LLC for consulting and auctioneering services for the October 10, 2025 fundraiser. Though his fee is \$10,000, Friedman has worked with Goodman on eight prior events in Chicago, IL, all raising in excess of \$100,000. Board members expressed concern over the high cost for his services, the difference in the fundraising market between Chicago and Birmingham, and how this would cut into the event's proceeds. Board members expressed concern over items #5 and #6 in Goodman's contract, which are related to the cancellation of the auction by the library or the inability for Goodman to perform at the auction. Both specify that the library would be responsible for the fee of \$10,000 if either instance were to happen. Karen Rock also asked, via email ahead of the meeting, for clarification on the exact consulting services Goodman would be providing.

Motion: To authorize Director Craft to sign the Engagement Agreement with David Goodman, Auction Results, LLC, with caveats to ask for a list of services provided with the pre-event consultation, and a request to negotiate items #5 and #6 in the contract, upon legal review by the library's attorney.

1st Friedman

2nd Rumble

Yeas: Friedman, Rumble.

Nays: Mark, Pisano, Wheeler

Absent and excused: Rock.

The motion failed.

One member of the public, who is also on the Books & Bites planning committee, expressed support for hiring the auctioneer. She described the committee's desire to create a new event concept for this fundraiser and its desire to attract younger donors.

One member of the public expressed gratitude for the fundraising planning committee and suggested reaching out to local, Michigan auctioneers for the event. She also mentioned proceeding with caution considering the uncertain economic climate.

Board members then discussed reaching out to two additional auctioneers to receive competitive bidding for an auctioneer for an event of this nature.

Motion: To direct the Books & Bites fundraising committee to interview two additional auctioneers and to compare bids with David Goodman's services.

1st Pisano

2nd Wheeler

Yeas: Mark, Pisano, Rumble, Wheeler.

Nays: Friedman.

Absent and excused: Rock.

The motion was approved.

3. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

1st Friedman

2nd Mark

Yeas: Friedman, Mark, Pisano, Rumble, Wheeler.

Nays: None.

