

**TOWNSHIP OF RUSSELL PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD
CONSEIL D'ADMINISTRATION DE LA BIBLIOTHÈQUE PUBLIQUE
DU CANTON DE RUSSELL**

**Minutes of the September 21, 2023 regular meeting
In person, Gaston R. Patenaude Meeting Room**

Attending: Mélanie Lalonde Lisa Deacon Dominique Bertrand
Eric Greer Jacques Héroux

Regrets: Phil Gurski Laurie Clement

Staff: France Séguin-Couture, CEO

Other: Members of the public

The meeting was called to order at 6:36 p.m.

23.09.1 Roll call

The Board Secretary confirmed that there was a quorum for the meeting.

23.09.2 Chair's opening remarks, Pecuniary conflict of interest statement and Approval of the amended agenda

Chair Eric Greer welcomed members of the Board and members of the public. There was no disclosure of pecuniary interest.

Motion 23.09.02

That the agenda be approved as amended.

Moved by Jacques Héroux. Seconded by Mélanie Lalonde. Carried.

Lisa Deacon read out loud the text on unceded lands.

23.09.3 Embrun Branch

France Séguin-Couture, CEO, made a presentation to Library Board members and the public on the Investigation and Report – Costing received from Lalande & Doyle Architects Inc. in August. She informed the Board that costs are now estimated to be around \$5 million and she explained the financial situation.

Motion 23.09.03

Communications – Update on the cost for the Embrun Branch Relocation at the Centre Camille Piché

Whereas:

The costs estimated at level D (May 31) and analyzed by Lalande & Doyle (Investigation & Costing report, August 3) are in excess of 5M for the renovation of the Centre Camille Piché, i.e. three times the costs approved by the Municipal Council in December 2022;

The Library Board has not yet received news of the current grant (Green and Inclusive Community Buildings program in February 2023, in the amount of \$2,282,811.77, application status: received (pending), which is currently under review;

The Library's reserve funds amount to \$1.3 million.

RESOLVED that the Library Board requests:

a) to pause Lalande & Doyle's designs (currently at 30%), so that we can present them for new grants as they become available.

b) the leadership of the Library Board conduct a meeting with the leadership of Russell Township to discuss respective project management and decision making responsibilities as well as other opportunities for the Embrun Branch relocation project within the next 30 days.

Moved by Lisa Deacon. Seconded by Eric Greer. Unanimously carried.

The public was given the opportunity to ask questions to the Library Board. Topics like potential land, time restrictions, Board influences, exploring different venues and new building costs were brought for attention and discussion.

Motion 23.09.03.001

**Township of Russell Public Library Board – Communications
– Statement from the Township of Russell Public Library
Board**

Be it RESOLVED:
that the Township of Russell Public Library Board continue to
operate the Embrun branch and the Russell branch and continue to
pursue the relocation of the Embrun branch.

Moved by Dominique Bertrand. Seconded by Lisa Deacon. Defeated.

Board members explained the history and gave some facts regarding the Embrun Branch relocation project.

Lisa Deacon informed the public as well as members that there is currently an Asset Management Review underway. Municipal Council is expecting a report at the November meeting.

Break period from 8:20-8:30 p.m.

23.09.4

Board member report

Lisa Deacon, municipal councillor, informed members of her attendance at the Teen Advisory Committee meeting. United Way Prescott-Russell and Centre de santé communautaire de l'Estrie were present and informed the Committee that the CTC program Intercommunauté was no longer funded. The Committee would like to see more (free) programming within the Township. The Library will explore possibilities for future activities relevant to 12-14 year olds.

Member Mélanie Lalonde was pleased to inform members that her colleague from École secondaire Embrun was in contact with the Library CEO to have a blitz card creation initiative for Township students to provide them with access to online resources.

Chair Eric Greer informed members of the potential commercial build near the Arena and the Camille Piché Community Centre.

Lisa Deacon concluded with a soon-to-be presented retail study that could provide price/square feet information.

CEO France Séguin-Couture described the new Food for Fines campaign which will run at both Library branches from September 27 to October 4th, 2023. For every non-perishable item collected, \$2 will be waived on Library fines to a maximum of 10 items, for a \$20 donation. All items will be donated by the Library Board to the Embrun Food Bank.

APPROVAL (CONSENT AGENDA)

23.09.5 Approval (consent agenda)

Motion 23.09.05

That the consent agenda be approved as presented.

Moved by Lisa Deacon. Seconded by Mélanie Lalonde. Carried.

23.09.6 Library Board Constitution

The Board will replace the policy review item at the next meeting with a review of the Library Board Constitution. Board members are mandated to examine the Constitution and propose amendments in writing *two weeks before the next meeting*.

23.09.7 2024 Operational Draft Budget 2024 Capital Draft Budget

Some minor revisions will be made and presented at the next Board meeting for final approval.

23.09.8 Policy revision / Policy Committee

The Committee reviewed Policy 4.4.4.1, Rights of children, teens and young adults, and presented minor changes.

Motion 23.09.08

That Policy 4.4.4.1, Rights of children, teens and young adults, be approved as amended.

Moved by Lisa Deacon. Seconded by Mélanie Lalonde. Carried.

23.09.9 Strategic discussion

The Library Board examined the timeline of the strategic communications plan. Board members will review the strategic plan text and images to be approved at the next meeting.

The unveiling of the plan will take place on Thursday November 9, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. at the Russell Branch.

23.09.10 Comments on the meeting

Special thanks to France Séguin-Couture and Jacques Héroux for their presentations and the context they provided at the meeting.

23.09.11

Next regular meeting:

Thursday, October 19, 2023 – 6:30 p.m.

In person, Gaston R. Patenaude Meeting Room, Town Hall

The meeting was adjourned at 9:28 p.m.

Eric Greer, Chair

France Séguin-Couture, Secretary