



Minutes

Town of Cairo

Wednesday March 16th, 2022

Library Meeting @ 6:30pm

Location: Town Hall Meeting Room

The Town Board of the Town of Cairo met for a Special Town Board Meeting with the Library Board on Wednesday March 16th, 2022 at the Town Hall, Main Street, Cairo, New York.

Supervisor Watts called the meeting to order at 6:41PM and asked the attendees to Pledge Allegiance to the Flag.

Attendance: Supervisor Watts, Council Member Bogins, Council Member Cords, Council Member Powers.

Absent: Council Member Flaherty

- Supervisor Watts starts by asking if the Library Board has anything to report on the paperwork given to Town Board.
- Deb starts by stating that if more Cairo residents came and used the library that those residents would re-coop the money paid in taxes annually for the library; approx. \$50.00.
- Board next addresses the letter of support for the Town Park from residents; the library states they have a stack of them for the Board, including letters from the library board.
- Council Member Powers asks if the Library Board can set up a meeting with the Mid-Hudson Library System. Deb has no problem with that, also asks if he has any other questions that he can address their board. Powers states that he has questions for Mid-Hudson Library System; about guidelines and how the library is being run.
- Deb goes on to state that the situation that is being looked into now, was looked into years before and they came to the same conclusion, the library was/is being run correctly.
- Council Member Powers goes on and asks the library about their budget money every year and how the board has no say in what the library does with the money; which is not true according to the library board.
- Powers continues to ask if the library would be open to an independent public audit.
- Library Board states that the budget that is being questioned is about the same amount every year, some of it are grants for the library. There are not many increases due to the fact that many things stay the same, payrolls for one; books have increased from year to year.
- Marc states that the Town Budget went up 10% but the library budget went down 5%.

- The library board mentions to Council Member Powers that if he still wants to meet with the Mid-Hudson Library System, make the call and set up a date with them.
- The reason that the library takes over their own bookkeeping is in the past bookkeepers didn't want to deal with it, since it was extra work; according to the library.
- When Deb first started working, the Town of Cairo use to pay for the library's insurance, workman's comp., etc. then the library was taken off the plan with no notice to the library.
- Deb was told by the county that it would not have been an error. That someone physically would have had to take them off the plan, they still to this day do not know who it was. The library went for years without this coverage because they were never notified.
- Council Member Powers doesn't think that library is spending money incorrectly. He just questions how everything is being provided for them and then still ask for a large budget.
- The Cairo Library is a municipal library, money is used for paying staff, buying books, outside events, etc.
- Powers questions how in 2000 you had 2 employees on the annual paperwork; Deb goes on to explain that it would have been on record of the 2 full-time employees and how the part-timers were grouped together. So it was more than 2 employees.
- Marc states that if you use the library there is a return on investment, using books, movies, going for events, classes. The point of the library to give everything away to the residents.
- On any given day they have 30-50 people come through the door @ 6 days a week.
- Deb goes out to point that the library is an award winning library and she is an award winning librarian. At least 3 trustees were awarded, why after all these years would the library be doing something wrong now?
- The library has also brought in prior to this last year to 1999, \$750,000 in grants.

Adjourn Meeting @ 7:02PM:

Offered by Supervisor Watts and seconded by Council Member Powers.

Supervisor Watts – Aye, Council Member Bogins – Aye, Council Member Cords – Aye, Council Member Flaherty – Absent, Council Member Powers – Aye. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kayla L. McAlister
Town Clerk