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Board of Trustees Meeting October 16, 2025

Opening the meeting and Roll Call

President Penny Price officially opened the meeting of the IVPL Board of Trustees on October 16, 2025. In attendance were Penny Price, Michelle Kane, Beth Styer (zoom), Elise Bowers (zoom), Alex Grande, Doug Johnson (absent), Suzie Leonard, Kyle Rogers, Brad Alderfer and Tracy Reed.

Discussion of Library Operations and Consent Agenda

Tracey Reed presented staff updates including Robin Frazier's parental leave. An intern named Elsa is working at IVPL this semester, specifically on weeding and other reference projects.

Tracey discussed how IVPL, along with libraries across the country, are dealing with the bankruptcy of Baker and Taylor, the largest vendor of books for libraries. Tracey explained the impact of Baker and Taylor's bankruptcy on library operations, including the need to transition to other vendors like Ingram and Follett. The library is heavily relying on Amazon, which is less profitable for authors and has caused delays in acquiring bestsellers. Standing orders for popular authors are affected, and the library is working to find viable solutions.

The consent agenda was introduced, including the minutes, treasurer's report, directors' report, monthly statistics, report to municipalities and committee reports. A motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Alex Grande and seconded by Michelle Kane. The consent agenda was passed with a unanimous vote.

Foundation of Friends Update

Stephanie Ferretti reported on the FOF's activities, including adopting a new logo, receiving a \$3,000 gift from the plant sale, and working on sustainability projects. The Franconia Township Fall Festival was a successful outreach event for the many participants at the festival. The FOF is starting its strategic planning process. Tracey added that the foundation is reaching out to the District Consultant Librarian Kate Shaw, for assistance with the strategic planning process.

Personnel Manual Discussion

Tracey shared the proposed updated personnel manual, which has been reviewed by the solicitor and is ready for approval. Kyle made a motion and Alex seconded to approve the personnel manual, which was unanimously approved by the BOT.

Budget Discussion

The budget for 2026 was presented, with a proposal for a deficit budget due to much needed increased salary expenses. Tracey explained the budgeting process, including the impact of flat funding from municipalities and the need to adjust for donations and grants.

Collection and Technology Updates

Tracey discussed the library's collection expenses, including the impact of Baker and Taylor's bankruptcy and the need to transition to other vendors. The library has added an overlay to our online catalog, called Aspen, which includes an app and integrates programs, book clubs, and electronic resources.

2026 Holidays

The Holiday schedule was presented and approved by the BOT. The Board went into an Executive Session at 8:15 which ended at 8:26.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Penny called for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Alex and seconded by Kyle. Meeting adjourned at 8:53.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Styer Secretary