

**Ashland Town Library  
Minutes of Library Trustees Meeting  
November 18, 2021**

**Trustees Present:** Alice Staples, David Ruell, Mardean Badger  
Kathleen DeWolfe, Alternate

**Members of the Public**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Alice Staples in the Conference Room at the Utilities Building, 6 Collins Street.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**Alice Staples opened the Public Hearing to accept an anonymous \$400,000 donation for the purpose of purchasing the former elementary school, now owned by Tri County CAP, for the use of the Ashland Town Library.**

The Trustees explained that an anonymous donation (\$400,000) has been received, with a directed purpose to purchase the Historic School (currently owned by TCCAP) for housing the town library. The school building would require minimal renovations (circulation desk, security doors for the first-floor circulation area, and bathroom modification) estimated \$50,000 to \$75,000. Sufficient space would be available for the growth of the library collections and services, would provide space for public programs, and would enable handicapped access to all areas of the building.

Other expenses for the building would include ongoing costs of utilities, elevator, etc., which will be updated with TCCAP. One additional staff person would likely be needed. The cost of equipping the building (furniture and shelving) is also being updated.

Accepting the donation would be just the first step in purchasing the building for the library. Purchase of the building must be approved by the BOS, or alternatively the voters in March 2022. Other parties included in the process are the Ashland School District (the original owner of the building) and the LCHIP program.

The Trustees also explained the structural issues with the current library building (at corner of Main Street and Pleasant Street), the evaluation of the structure by Samyn-D'Elia Architects, and CCI's estimated cost of renovating the structure with a 16x30 foot addition (\$1,290,915).

In addition to the anonymous donation of \$400,000, the library also has approximately \$136,000 in its capital reserve fund, approximately \$11,000 in its own building fund, and will be exploring other grant and/or loan resources.

Members of the audience were generally supportive of the purchase of the Historic School for the library, as a positive financial and program step forward. Some questions to be further considered include parking availability for evening programs, other costs connected with the

purchase (closing, etc.) and the importance of discovering if there are any current issues with the Historic School.

The Public hearing was closed at 7:30 PM.

**A motion was made (Ruell) and seconded (Staples) to accept the anonymous donation of \$400,000 for the specific purpose of purchasing the Historic School for the Ashland Town Library. The motion was approved unanimously, 3-0 (Ruell, Staples and Badger yes).**

Additional information will be provided to the town and voters in a variety of formats and forums.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:32 PM.

*Minutes submitted by Mardean Badger*