

**Chautauqua-Cattaraugus Library System  
Annual Business Meeting**

October 9, 2024  
Chautauqua Harbor Hotel, Celoron  
6:00 pm

**MINUTES**

1. Meeting called to order at 6:01 PM
  - a. Present: Don Watkins, President; Don Butler, Vice President; Reed McElfresh, Treasurer, and Cody Whitton, Barb Kittle, Sandy Blood, Trustees; Jan Dekoff, Executive Director
  - b. See sign in sheets for additional
  - c. Absent: Nancy Padak, Ned Lindstrom,
  
2. Election of Chairman and Secretary
  - a. Motion to elect Don Watkins as Chairman and Reed Sandy/Cody W all in favor
  
3. Minutes of Previous Meeting
  - a. Darlene Barney/Graham Tedesco-Blair all in favor
  
4. Treasurer's Report
  - a. In 2024 we received a 4% increase in state funding and received a 2% increase from Catt co and 3% from Chautauqua county
  - b. Gifts/Grants/Other 2023 ARPA Grant, Summer Reading, Love your Library
    - i. 2024 Summer Reading, Love your library fund
  - c. Expenses: grants to member libraries, summer reading, payroll support, broadband services, local library services aid, cash grant
  - d. Capital: purchased a new trucks in 2023 and 2024. Fulfillment was much faster this time
  - e. Motion by Rhonda Thompson/Brette Hindman all in favor
  
5. Election of System Trustees
  - a. Cody Whitton - Partial Term: June 2024-December 2027
  - b. Motion by Darlene Barney/Michele La Voie all in favor
  
6. Report of Nominating Committee
  - a. Proposed Slate of Officers:

- i. President: Reed McElfresh
  - ii. Vice-President: Donald Butler
  - iii. Treasurer: Steve Crowley
  - iv. Secretary: Nancy Padak
- b. Slate motion by: Sue Gilman/Graham Tedesco-Blair

## 7. Old Business

## 8. New Business

- c. Seeking Cattaraugus County Trustee. Don Watkins is terming off after ten years of service
- d. 2023-2024 Construction Aid Awards
  - i. Received notice at the beginning of the month that all 11 applications received in 2023 were fully funded. One project is already closing the books on their project.
- e. 2024-2025 Construction Aid Applications
  - i. We had 15 libraries submit applications for just over \$1M in funding. We're using our full allotment from NYS. Currently at State Library and DLD for their review. Expect to hear in December on next steps.

## 9. System Director's Report

- a. We saw a 4% increase in state aid in 2024, hoping for additional increase in 2025.
- b. 30% increase in construction aid statewide. Money is vital and we're continuing to push for additional funding.
- c. Received additional distribution from Love Your Library fund.
- d. Advocacy efforts this year really paid off. A lobbying firm out of Buffalo has been contracted with by WNYLRC to advocate for increased funding for the nine library councils, public libraries, and school libraries.
- e. We've seen great interest in sustainable funding. We had two successful 259 votes: Seymore and Sinclairville libraries. Funding has increased 2.5x from what it is now. Ashville free library: funding will increase 3x current rate. We're up to 9 libraries in Chautauqua county with 259s. Ellington is going for a 414 vote this November. Kennedy was successful with 414 last year.
- f. We have a new delivery truck on the road now.
- g. 2024 is highest OverDrive use ever.
- h. Have a service for comics and graphic novels available for all CCLS card holders.
- i. Great year for upgrades to CCLS internet service 34/36 libraries are using our network. Speeds between 200-500 mbps.
- j. Trustee education requirements are now in force! Trustees are required to participate in two hours of continuing ed. Recorded or live trustee handbook book club meetings are eligible for hour requirement.
- k. Motion to accept Brette Hindman/Darlene Barney all in favor

10. Adjournment Motion: Darlene Barney / Bill Newton all in favor

Respectfully submitted,  
Reed McElfresh—Meeting Secretary