

04/03/20

**Attended Via Zoom:**

Submitted by S Wirth

Norm Ellis  
Mark Smith  
Alice  
Taychert           Via Phone  
Ceil Kelley  
Sharon Wirth  
Rex Wiggers  
Joe Liberto  
Garrett  
McGowen

**By Special Invitation:**

Stephanie Cole Adams, Atty SCLRC

**Absent:**

Brian Paul Friedland  
Pat Moore

Meeting called to order @ 4:32 PM by N  
Ellis  
Motion to skip the reading of minutes of prior  
meeting.  
Moved by Norm, 2nd by Sharon

Topics to be addressed as posed by Mark in email:

- 1) Charter
- 2) What are the legal responsibilities of the city to support the library under our NYS  
Can the city to cut their budget so that will impose a forced, extended closure?  
What are the legal rights and obligations (and powers) of the Board of Trustees
- 3) to address the situation?  
Are we on solid ground pursuing remedy or challenging this City Council action? If  
so, what are those grounds?
- 4) so, what are those grounds?

Introduction of Stephanie, her background and credentials.

Introduction of players: City of Hornell, Mayor, Friends of the Library, Board of Trustees, Library  
Director and employees, public

Notes:

No other lawyer currently advises the Board of Trustees  
or Director

Brian Shu advised pro bono on 501c3  
STLS Brian Hildreth, no response to request for help

Steuben County Personnel Director and staff advised on terminations

Ryan Carbone, Personnel Technician advised that the City of Hornell is responsible for terminating employees as they are the 'Employer of Record' and provide the certified payrolls to the County. As discussed with Sharon, Alice to provide him a list of employees and City of Hornell is to file RPCs (Report of Personnel Change) for each impacted person.

Current Hornell Budget Information for 2020-2021:

<https://www.cityofhornell.com/>

[\\* 2020-2021 General Fund Budget](#)

Hornell Public Library is on the National Historic

Register

Hornell Public Library is founded on a Carnegie Trust

grant

Carnegie required the elected officials—the local government—to:

demonstrate the need for a public library;

provide the building site;

pay staff and maintain the library;

draw from public funds to run the library—not use only private donations;

annually provide ten percent of the cost of the library's construction to support its operation; and,

provide free service to all.

Impact of property tax reassessment is unclear, since it hasn't been done in 10+ years

Acknowledgement of impact covid-19 on small business and sales tax revenue

Suggestions for a Plan of Action from Stephanie:

- 1 Focus on the ultimate goal  
Create a catch phrase to sum up and use in
- 2 PR  
Create a separate Plan for each of (3)
- 3 phases
  - 1 Crisis Response
  - 2 Recovery
  - 3 Restoration
- 4 Interface with the City at least twice weekly to keep the Library in the forefront  
Mitigate language and actions to promote a "Team" atmosphere with the Mayor and City
- 5 Promote and reinforce the idea that the Library is '*An integral part of community recovery*'
- 6
- 7 Be willing to negotiate  
Establish realistic budget amounts to operate
- 8 during each phase

- 9 Create lists of what the Library is doing now with  
5-6 items
  - Keeping some staff
  - Providing E-books
  - Providing online services such as  
genealogy
- 10 Explore alternate avenues of funding
- 11 Identify potential advocates such as county, state and federal representatives

Open discussion by board members.

Stephanie excused herself

Other Points:

- 1 Alice will explore minimum hours of operation for recovery and restoration  
phases
- 2 Brian to schedule Radio interview Tues @ 3:00  
with open mike.
- 3 Ceil to contact State Representative Marjorie  
Burns
- 4 Garrett to contact newspapers
- 5 Joe was quoted \$45.00 ea. for (2) 2'x5'  
signs

5:56 PM Motion to Adjourn by Mark, 2nd Joe

Next Meeting Date pending contact with WLEA to be  
advised by Brian

Next Special Meeting Date with Stephanie Thursday 04/09/20 @3:00 PM to be advised  
by Mark