EAST HADDAM BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES

FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF JANUARY 22, 2025

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:31 PM by J Bielot
   Trustees present: J Bielot, D Barlow
   Also present: E Morgen, Library System Direction
2. 2025-2026 Budget Review
   a. As discussed at previous meetings, a major budget focus this year is to work to resolve the staffing issues with the Library System and the significant compensation disparity between East Haddam and nearby towns.
   b. E Morgen presented data showing that East Haddam's employee compensation significantly lags that of area towns as well as less overall total spending on Libraries.
   c. The Ray Board will not fund the needed Interns which are needed to allow the libraries to be open based on their current schedule.
   d. Staff are stressed and have been coming to work despite feeling ill knowing that if they are out, a building will need to be closed due to an insufficient number of available staff.
   e. Circulation was greater last year than any year over the past 5 years.
   f. There were errors in the preliminary budget staffing line. E Morgen is working with the town's Finance Director to get the current amounts shown corrected.
   g. E Morgen informed us that Selectman I Haines has contacted L Prichard to assist with the budget. Last year she worked as Acting Director which a search was taking place. She did a deep dive into the budget last year, and she has volunteered to assist.
   h. A motion was made by D Barlow and seconded by J Bielot to approve the planned budget that we were able to review. The motion passed 2-0-0.
3. There was no audience of citizens.
4. Without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 PM

Submitted by: J Bielot, Subcommittee Chair