KINGS RSC SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
Sussex Regional Library. Magnolia Ave., Sussex, N.B.
Wednesday, July 5, 2023, 7:00 pm.

Board Members Present:
Randy McKnight – Valley Waters
Peter Price – Kings Rural
Vicki Gaunce – Butternut Valley
Charity McDonald – Valley Waters
Marc Thorne – Sussex
Tim Wilson – Sussex
Alan Brown – Butternut Valley
Gordon Keirstead – Kings Rural

Andrea Davis – Hourihan – acting Executive Director
Mark Flewwelling – Director Corporate Services
Pam Kaye – Recording Secretary

Public – Wayne Wilkins

Marc Thorne, Chairperson brought the meeting to order at 7:00pm, welcoming everyone. Thankyou to our presenters for our presentations tonight.

Motion to approve July 5 agenda made by Tim Wilson, seconded by Randy McKnight
Motion carried (7-0)

Marc asked if there was any conflict of interest. None declared.

Presentations:

Rebekah Wheaton – Sussex Regional Library – acting library director
The library covers a large area, as adjacent libraries are a distance away. The library has a partnership between municipality and province governments. The municipality looks after the house keeping items for the facility and the province looks after the employee's salaries. Our library offers a wide range of services from books, media collections, online collections, to object lending such as snowshoes, fishing rods, and other sports equipment. All the historical information for the adjacent areas is available here, as well as access to over 2 million items with a valid library card. The public can access.
tools and training, as well as passes for provincial parks and summer programs for children. Our

outreach programs are important, students visit area daycares, crosswinds, and special care homes. Books by mail and talking books are available. We focus on recreational reading and learning in and outside the building. Services are well used by all ages. Many people use the library to access the internet.
The chair thanked Rebekah for the presentation.

Heather Moffett – financial officer for the Town of Sussex went over financials for the library. Every board member was provided with this information in their package. There is a net deficit of $84,150 for the year 2023. All questions were answered satisfactorily.
Thankyou for presenting this information.

Alison Murphy – Executive Director of AX
The Ax facility is the only environmentally controlled facility in this area, upgrades have been made to the workshop, café, and patio. We offer music concerts, literary reading, and outreach programs to the local high schools. Ax serves a large geographical community being the catalyst for arts, seniors, and tourism. We create community cohesion, arts and culture is how we tell our story. We also offer writing workshops, a wide variety of classes such as ceramics and spinning workshops. Ax contributes to our communities well being by having partnerships and collaborations with groups like MAS, Friends of Fundy, FRYE festival, Craft NB, Arts Link, Beaverbrook art gallery, Writers Federation of NB. Our director actively collaborates with other art centres and participates in collective group provincial projects. Working with local high schools providing literary programs, student exhibitions and senior centres. Ax see approx. 26,000 visitors' annually and contributes to our tourism draw to this community. We have two full time employees and two part time summer students. One full time staff member who focuses on grants writing.
Mark Webster – financial vice chair and treasurer
Our budget is made up of Federal/ Provincial Grants 56.2 %, fundraising 36.5%, musical events and workshops, municipal support 7.3% lease with town for building.
Challenges - highly dependent on grants, we would like to be more self sufficient to have a reasonable stable budget from year to year.

Total expense – 345k
Fixed portion 240 k (wages, utilities. Insurance/licensing)
Total revenue – 393 k
Feb./prov grants 221 k.
Municipal support 29k
Fundraising 143 k
Majority of grants received does not cover overhead, and there is a vast expense for payroll staffing. For the road to self sufficiency, we need three things – buy time for ax to grow, increase programming, fundraising revenue. We have an endowment fund of $125,000 that was turned over to the Sussex and Area Community Fund for investment, The objective was to reach a million, this is a slow process. We would like to be part of a regional approach so that we can grow bigger and more diverse to attract corporate and personal benefactors. This would be over a 5–10-year timeframe. Building an operating reserve to provide assured funding for fixed expenses was suggested as an option.
Thankyou very much for presenting.

Marc presented a model using the 50/50 population formula to look at the cost of additional tax to cover the libraries $84,000 deficit. The additional cost using blended percentages are: Valley Waters 15.98%, Butternut Valley 24.7%, Kings Rural 25.86% and Sussex 36%. The 50/50 population percentage is in close correlation between % of users with tax base, which seems fair.

A lengthy discussion ensured over fairness of funding models.
Alan Brown reminded the chair there is a meeting cap of 2 hours. Everyone agreed they wanted to continue.
Peter Price made a motion to extend meeting, seconded by Tim Wilson.
Motion carried (7-0)

The board was reminded that they were here to vote on whether these facilities were regional not the funding model.

Alan Brown agreed the library is a regional facility, Tim Wilson agreed.
Tim Wilson recommended 50/50 formula for regional facility. Randy disagrees, saying Valley Waters is subsidizing Sussex. Funding for the Hampton arena was brought up and it is unclear if Valley Waters has been taken out of that tax. Recommended writing a letter to Minister with respect to Valley Waters be excluded from funding the Hampton arena. Randy has already written, but support letter from RSC would help.

The chair called for vote on Sussex regional library.

Tim Wilson made a motion to have Sussex Regional Library be designated as a Regional facility, seconded by Alan Brown, with no funding model at this point. Motion carried (5- 3)
Chairperson Marc Thorne, Director Wilson - Sussex, Director Price, Director Keirstead, Kings Rural District, Vice Chair Brown – Butternut Valley voted in favour.
Director McKnight, Director McDonald -Valley waters, Director Gaunce - Butternut Valley voted against)

Chair moved on to Ax facility without a funding model attached.

Tim Wilson make motion that AX be designated as a regional facility, without a funding model, seconded by Peter Price. Motion defeated (3 -5). Director Gaunce, Butternut Valley, Directors McKnight and McDonald - Valley Waters, Director Keirstead - Kings Rural voted against, (Using weighted voting)

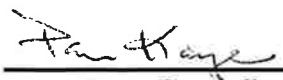
Letter to be sent to AX with results.

Meeting adjourned at 9:26, motion by Peter Price, seconded by Charity McDonald.

Next meeting will be July 26, 2023



Marc Thorne, Chairperson



Pam Kaye, Recording Secretary