



# HUDSON LIBRARY & HISTORICAL SOCIETY

96 LIBRARY STREET · HUDSON, OHIO · 44236

October 12, 2020

Special Meeting

Resolution Index

#2020-043    Approval of Resolution to amend Upcoming Levy Term



# HUDSON LIBRARY & HISTORICAL SOCIETY

96 LIBRARY STREET · HUDSON, OHIO · 44236

October 12, 2020

## Special Meeting

Pursuant to Article III, Section 1(B) of the Hudson Library & Historical Society Regulations, a Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees was called to order at 7:07 pm on Monday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020 via Zoom Video Conference by President Basil Musnuff. It was intended that the Special Meeting would be live streamed on the Library's YouTube channel, but technical difficulties prevented that from occurring. For that reason, the meeting was recorded and was later posted to the library YouTube channel for public viewing.

President Basil Musnuff directed the Board Secretary to call the Roll.

### TRUSTEES PRESENT AT ROLL CALL

Mrs. Beverly Dorson – y\*  
Mrs. Melissa Lindley – y\*  
Ms. Heather Link – y\*  
Mrs. Michelle Marshall – y\*  
Mr. Basil Musnuff – y\*

Mr. John Rydquist – y\*  
Mr. Rob Swedenborg – y\*  
Mrs. Becky Thompson – n\*  
Mrs. Carleen Welch – y\*

Mr. Musnuff noted for the record that there was a quorum present for the Special Meeting.

### OFFICIALS AND OTHERS PRESENT AT ROLL CALL

Ms. Leslie Polott, Executive Director – y\*  
Ms. Molly Pandelli, Fiscal Officer – y\*  
Ms. Marie Turkovich, Deputy Fiscal Officer/Board Secretary – y\*

### VISITORS

*\*present via Zoom video conference*

*Barbara Bos-Hudson League of Women Voters- y\**

*Mary Hughes- Hudson League of Women Voters- y\**

### Levy Update

Mr. Musnuff updated the Board on recent issues regarding the levy. The recently passed Board resolution, #2020-030 approving a 2-year renewal levy to be placed on ballot in spring 2021 went to Hudson City Council for the required three readings. He stated it was passed by the City and sent to the Summit County Fiscal Officer where several technical issues with the resolution were identified. First, City Council passed it as a 5-year levy instead of the 2-year levy proposed by the Library; that error was then published on the front page of the Hudson Hub Times Newspaper. Second, the City's Resolution failed to meet a few new technical requirements, so it needed to come back to City Council for amendment.



# HUDSON LIBRARY & HISTORICAL SOCIETY

96 LIBRARY STREET · HUDSON, OHIO · 44236

October 12, 2020

## Special Meeting

Summit County employees questioned whether the Library could pursue a 2-year levy as a “renewal” when the original term of the levy was for 5 years. After discussion between legal counsel and the Summit County Fiscal office, it appears that a 2-year renewal is permissible as long as all substantive terms remain unchanged.

However due to the publication in the newspaper stating a 5-year renewal, as well as Ms. Polott receiving positively feedback from community members, the Executive Committee feels the library would be better served by seeking a 5-year renewal rather than a 2-year renewal at 2.9 mils.

Ms. Polott stated that the numbers coming from the Ohio Library Council are not as dire as originally anticipated, and she and Ms. Pandelli recalculated the forecasts based on these current expected numbers and feel that the library could carry on with a 5-year renewal levy, with the option to consider an add-on levy at a later point, if necessary. She commented that since the error has been published and the public is therefore expecting a 5-year levy coupled with the more positive forecasts showing the ability to function, that it would be best to pursue the 5-year renewal levy that the City Council has already approved.

Mr. Musnuff commented that he conducted a telephone conference with (i) Ms. Polott, (ii) the Library's legal counsel, (iii) Jeff Knoblauch the City's Assistant City Manager and (iv) the City's legal counsel. The City's attorney feels that the paperwork just needs corrected in order to validate City Council's Resolution of a 5-year levy, and the library simply needs to send a request to amend to a 5-year. There will be no new readings or votes that need repeated except for those necessary to correct the technical deficiencies in the original Resolution. Mr. Musnuff stated that we are fortunate that we started the levy process early, allowing time to correct these issues.

At Mr. Musnuff's request, legal counsel drafted a formal resolution to be considered by the Board at this Special Meeting which was circulated to the Board for review.

Mr. Musnuff inquired of any concerns on the proposed new resolution for a renewal levy of 5 years. Mrs. Marshall inquired of the original Board rationale of seeking an original 2-year term as opposed to a 5-year term and the changes since the levy resolution passed. Mr. Musnuff responded with the following reasons:

1. It was felt that a renewal levy was a better solution than requesting additional funds from the taxpayers due to the pandemic and economic uncertainties.



# HUDSON LIBRARY & HISTORICAL SOCIETY

96 LIBRARY STREET · HUDSON, OHIO · 44236

October 12, 2020

## Special Meeting

2. The Board felt less confident that the library could operate on just a renewal levy for a longer period of time, such as 5 years.

Mr. Musnuff stated the changes in rationale to support a 5-year renewal was due to several items;

1. The forecasted revenue projection for the Public Library Fund (PLF) is better than originally projected
2. There is always an option to seek an additional levy in later years, and
3. The public relation concerns related to a publicized 5-year term in the local paper and the appearance of us switching.

Mr. Swedenborg commented that due to the public relations concerns and the ability to seek an add on levy later if necessary, he supports the new motion change to a 5- year levy renewal.

Ms. Pandelli noted that the revised 10-year forecast with a 5-year renewal levy allowed for modest increases to salaries, operational expenses, and library collections, but not any large capital projects expenditures. She stated that the library has done a significant amount of improvements already with new paint, carpeting, HVAC updates etc. And further stated the Capital Improvement & Maintenance Fund, which receives \$90,000 per year, should allow for any capital necessities that may come up during the 5-year levy term.

Mrs. Welch stated she was confident in the ability of Administrative Staff to tighten their belts and operate with a 5-year renewal levy.

Mrs. Dorson inquired of the process of Summit County reassessing home values and the effect on the library levy start date and collection. A discussion ensued among the Board members and administration on House Bill 920. Ms. Pandelli summarized stating that House Bill 920 would not allow levy collection to be increased or reduced due to inflation but would allow for the collection of revenue on any new housing construction.

Heather Link highlighted the Board's original reasoning to pursue a 2-year renewal versus the 5-year was that taxpayers would appreciate it and understand the rationale. She stated that the Board should keep this in mind, when considering amending to a longer levy term.

Ms. Polott commented that in her discussions with customers that they understood that if the library pursued a 2-year levy, that an increase would be requested later. In contrast, pursuing a



# HUDSON LIBRARY & HISTORICAL SOCIETY

96 LIBRARY STREET · HUDSON, OHIO · 44236

October 12, 2020

## Special Meeting

5-year levy, along with the fact that the library bond had been paid off in 2019, they could handle what they are currently paying as opposed to a near term requested increase.

Mr. Rydquist. inquired as to the source of the error related to the 5-year term on the part of the City of Hudson. Mr. Musnuff and Ms. Polott felt it was an honest administrative error by the City. Mr. Rydquist also inquired if the library would have to be excessively conservative to operate with a 5-year as opposed to a 2-year renewal. Ms. Polott responded that she is always conservative with regards to the budget to allow for a sizable carryover each year. She stated she felt confident that the library could provide quality services, collections, programming and even new initiatives, while being fiscally conservative.

Mr. Musnuff inquired if there were any objections to the new resolution for a 5-year term and none were given.

Mr. Musnuff read the proposed resolution into the record.

### RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE HUDSON LIBRARY & HISTORICAL SOCIETY

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the Hudson Library & Historical Society (the "Board") at a meeting held on June 22, 2020 adopted a resolution (i) declaring it necessary and desirable to renew an existing 2.9-millage tax levy for the purpose of operating the Hudson Library & Historical Society (the "Library"), and (ii) requesting the Hudson City Council ("City Council") to submit the question of the renewal levy to its electors at the Spring Election 2021; and

WHEREAS, the original request the Library presented to City Council stated a term of two years, and the Board would like to amend the request to state a term of five years consistent with the related resolution approved by City Council;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board approves an amendment to its request to City Council to submit to the electors a renewal levy of 2.9 millage for a term of five years for the purpose of operating the Library;



# HUDSON LIBRARY & HISTORICAL SOCIETY

96 LIBRARY STREET · HUDSON, OHIO · 44236

October 12, 2020

## Special Meeting

FURTHER RESOLVED, that in furtherance of the foregoing, the Board does hereby approve, confirm, and ratify the authority of the Board President, the Executive Director of the Library and the Fiscal Officer of the Library (and each of them) (collectively, the “Authorized

Officers”) to take, any and all other actions, in each case which they or any of them deemed, or deem, necessary or appropriate, for the purpose of effectuating the intent of the foregoing resolution;

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Authorized Officers are each hereby authorized to certify copies of, or excerpts from, these resolutions to such persons as they shall deem necessary or appropriate in connection with the consummation of the transaction contemplated herein; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that all prior acts of the Authorized Officers (and each of them) in furtherance of the actions authorized by the foregoing resolutions are hereby ratified and confirmed.

**Resolution #2020-043:** Mr. Swedenborg made a motion to approve the proposed renewal levy be placed on the ballot at 2.9 millage with an amended 5-year term. Ms. Link seconded, and it was approved by a roll call vote (yes-8, no-0).

## Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:41 pm.

Respectively Submitted,

Mr. Basil Musnuff, President  
Board of Trustees

Ms. Marie Turkovich, Board Secretary  
Board of Trustees