

**TOWN OF JAMESTOWN
SPECIAL FINANCIAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES
October 18, 2022**

Call to Order

Moderator Susan Romano calls the Special Financial Town Meeting to order at 7:43 p.m. in the Lawn Avenue Gymnasium, 55 Lawn Avenue, Jamestown and led the Pledge of Allegiance

Town Council members present:

Nancy A. Beye, President
Mary E. Meagher, Vice President
Erik G. Brine
Michael G. White
Randy White

Also in attendance:

Susan Romano, Town Moderator
Jamie A. Hainsworth, Town Administrator
Christina D. Collins, Finance Director
Edward A. Mello, Police Chief
Fred F. Pease, Town Sergeant
Lisa Sheley, Library Director
Peter D. Ruggiero, Town Solicitor
Roberta J. Fagan, Town Clerk

Library Board of Trustees members present:

Eugene Mihaly
Paul Houseberg
Peter Carson
Christopher Walsh
Devi Ross
Robert Flath
Marla Romash

Meeting Procedures and Voting Overview

Town Moderator Romano reviewed the meeting procedures and voting overview. There were 270 voters present at 7:43 p.m.

Vice President Meagher made a motion to waive the reading of the Warrant, with a second by President Beye.

Motion passes by a majority vote in the affirmative

Town Council President Nancy A. Beye

Moderator Romano introduced President Beye, who thanked Moderator Romano and all those assembled. She then introduced Library Board of Trustees Chair Eugene Mihaly.

Library Board of Trustees Chair Eugene Mihaly

Moderator Romano introduced Chair Eugene Mihaly, who thanked Moderator Romano and addressed the assembled voters:

Good evening/welcome. Tonight, is a pivotal moment – a culmination - of a project that has been developing intensely since 2018.

Specifically, we are here to vote on a \$600,000 bond which the Town will issue But the State of RI will pay for (as it will pay for the \$1.5 million bond we voted on in 2020).

This sounds paradoxical. Let me give brief background and explain the financial arrangement.

Even earlier than 2018, the library realized it faced two sets of issues: first, major mechanical and structural systems of the building were showing signs of impending failure; and the building was not configured to deliver the services that the community wanted and needed.

The 2018 bond of \$1 million was intended to repair the building and to make a start on reconfiguration. But it turned out that the repairs alone would cost close to \$1.5 million.

The library commissioned a fine design and launched a fundraising campaign. By 2020, with the passage of the \$1.5 million bond and heavy support from residents and foundations, we were fully funded and ready to go.

Then came Covid which stalled processing by the state. We lost two years. Then came inflation in construction and materials. A \$3.6 million project in 2020 became a \$4.99 million project in 2022.

Thanks to a major anonymous gift, we were left with a \$600,000 rather than \$1 million gap. That gap had to be filled if the project was to go forward and not be sent back to the drawing board next year.

Then the state came in with a decision to support the project to \$2.1 million. That covered the 2020 bond as well as the bond on the table tonight.

The state has supported library construction projects for years. Towns issue bonds; the state pays principle and interest for the life of the bonds.

So, our decision tonight does not involve town taxes. But it does involve a very, very important investment in the quality of life in Jamestown for years to come.

I urge a vote in favor of the bond

Chair Mihaly asks Library Director Sheley to say a few words.

Library Director Lisa Sheley

Library Director Sheley thanked the Library Board of Trustees and all those assembled for coming. She then asked the Jamestown Library staff to stand in recognition of their efforts.

Voting on the Warrant:

Resolution Number 1 - Appropriation For The Renovation, Repair, And/Or Expansion Of The Jamestown Philomenian Library Including Related Equipment Therefor And All Costs Incidental Thereto Through Issuance Of Bonds And/Or Notes not to exceed in the whole, the sum of Six Hundred Thousand (\$600,000.00) Dollars.

Moderator Romano stated she would entertain a motion on the Warrant.

A motion was made by Vice President Meagher with a second by President Beye to approve the Warrant.

Moderator Romano asked if there was any discussion and gave those assembled the opportunity to ask questions

Moderator Romano called for all those in favor please signify by saying yes.
Moderator Romano called for all those opposed please signify by saying no.

Motion passes by a majority vote in the affirmative.

Moderator Romano stated this concludes our business and called for a motion to adjourn.

A motion was made by Vice President Meagher with a second by Councilor Brine to adjourn.

Motion passes unanimously.

The Special Financial Town Meeting was adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Attest:



Roberta J. Fagan, Town Clerk