

Alden Ewell Free Library
Special Meeting
November 19, 2018

Ewell Free Library special meeting to discuss re-chartering the library called by President Susan Sabers Chapman at 6:03 PM. Meeting was called to discuss re-chartering the library. In attendance: President Susan Sabers Chapman, Vice President William Chapman, Secretary Tanya Lords-Quinn, Treasurer Joy Insinna, Library Manager Rebecca Moe, and special guest System Director Mary Jean Jakubowski. Absent/excused: Carol Dubel.

In 1913, the Ewell Free Library's charter was written with a service area of the village of Alden only. Since residents of the village and town, as well as many surrounding towns and other Erie County residents are all served by our library and staff, we are looking to change the service area of the charter, from simply the village of Alden to include the town and village.

As per Mary Jean Jakubowski, as currently chartered Alden is an underserved community. The combined population of Alden town and village is about 12,000 residents, which under New York State standards means a minimum of 35 library service hours. This is in contrast to our current charter, the standards for which are only 25 service hours for a population of just over 2,600. With re-chartering, the State will allow us to maintain our current status as a free association library and not require us to switch to municipal.

Re-chartering would also change the state minimum education requirements for the director position, making it a union position and requiring a public librarian's certificate. Upon re-chartering, the library would need to advertise the director's position as a Librarian I, permanent appointment starting at salary level IX; the library is also strongly encouraged to make it a full time position. Mary Jean has already spoken to NYS on our behalf and Mary Beth Farr has begun preparing the needed paperwork.

Steps needed in order to move forward with filing re-charter include:

- Board must pass a formal resolution in a regular meeting.
- Formal resolution must go to the Association's open meeting for a member vote.
- Board representatives should speak to the Village and Town and ask for a message of support, as re-chartering will benefit all involved. For example, the library could advertise that we serve the Village and Town. A letter of support from the Town Supervisor and Village Mayor would show that all parties are on the same page, though technically neither needs to formally approve a charter change.
- Re-chartering paperwork can be filed directly with the state or through Mary Jean.

Other information shared by Mary Jean:

- Current standards sheet left with Susan
- ACTS workshop will be held March 2, 2019 will explain upcoming standards changes
 - Board will need to regularly review policies on a rotating schedule
 - Minimum hours won't change
 - Local policies will need to be publicly posted; System will provide guidance

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 PM.

Next meeting: December 10, 2018 at 5:30PM at GDI's.