



CAPE BRETON REGIONAL LIBRARY BOARD

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING Budget Review April 22, 2025

Members Present: Coun. Darren O'Quinn, Coun. Steve Gillespie, Coun. Kim Sheppard-Campbell and Ann E. Dunn, representing the Cape Breton Regional Municipality; and Terry Murray, representing Victoria County.

Attempted Attendance (Virtual): Coun. Perla MacLeod (via Zoom – connection unsuccessful)

Vacant: Province of Nova Scotia Library Board Appointees (2 vacancies)

Regrets: Jean MacAulay-MacIntyre

Call to Order: Vice-Chair, Coun. Darren O'Quinn called the meeting to order at 6:15 pm.

Introductions:

Members around the table introduced themselves.

Budget Review:

Regional Librarian Lisa Mulak presented a comprehensive overview of the proposed 2025–2026 operating budget, outlining projected revenues and expenditures. She noted that while bridge funding was received from the Province, the budget reflects a projected deficit of \$531,200. The shortfall will require additional fundraising efforts and the use of reserve funds.

The Board discussed the impact of recent minimum wage increases on salary scales and the broader financial implications for library staffing and operations.

Motion:

It was moved by Terry Murray and seconded by Ann E. Dunn to approve the 2025–2026 operating budget as presented.

CARRIED

Action:

Lisa Mulak will contact local Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) to arrange a meeting and communicate the budget deficit and ongoing funding challenges facing the library system.

Rita Gillis Fund:

A motion was brought forward to liquidate the stocks held in the Rita Gillis Fund and allocate the proceeds to the operating budget.

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Steve Gillespie and seconded by Councillor Kim Sheppard-Campbell to sell the stocks in the Rita Gillis Fund and transfer the proceeds to the operating budget.

CARRIED.

Public Access computers:

Lisa reported that the library has received a \$43,000 grant from the Province to purchase new accessible public computers. A quote was obtained from Dell

Technologies for this purpose. Board approval was requested to proceed with the purchase.

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Steve Gillespie and seconded by Terry Murray to approve the Dell Technologies quote and authorize the library to proceed with the purchase. **CARRIED.**

Respectfully submitted.

Lisa Mulak, Secretary
Cape Breton Regional Library Board.