

**Minutes**  
**Town of Skowhegan**  
**Opera House Committee Meeting**  
**3:00 P.M.**  
**Tuesday, January 18, 2022**  
**Municipal Building – Council Room**

**Committee Members Present:**

Cara Mason, Chairman  
Lyn Govoni  
Jeff Hewett  
Todd Smith

**Absent Members:**

Jon Kimbell  
Fred Liebfried  
Jim Preble

**Recording Secretary:**

Renee Belliveau

Cara called meeting to order at 3:04 pm.

1. Approve Minutes from the October 19, 2021 meeting.

Jeff Hewett motioned, Todd Smith seconded to approve the minutes from the October 19, 2021 meeting. V 4-0, motion carried.

2. Update from FSOH regarding funding and fundraisers.

Lyn Govoni updated the Board with information that FSOH has raised \$2,333.64 from the “Not on this Night” show and donations. As for fundraising, they have put together an agreement for a combination of a musical and poetry event to take place in April. There are plans to meet in February to speak about promoting the event and putting up donation boxes throughout the town.

Lyn Govoni asked if it is okay if items, such as CD’s, are sold in the lobby during shows as well. Cara Mason said yes, Bob Marley does it during every show he has here.

Cara Mason said there are a lot of shows to take place in the upcoming months, some of which are from out of town due to Covid restrictions in their particular area(s). The Opera House will get a lot of use.

3. Discussion and decision regarding funding as part of the Town’s budget.

Cara Mason states that she has put out plenty of ideas in the past to go about getting funds, part of which were getting ARPA funds, we are just not sure if or how much we will get. There was also discussion on using a separate line item in budget for the Opera

House or whether we wanted to have a reserve fund that we put money into. There was also talk about asking for surplus funds. Todd Smith asked If we used surplus or just straight budget, do we have a number we were thinking about? Cara Mason said she doesn't have an amount, but there is an old reserve account that hasn't been touched for many years which is probably our best option. If money is put into a reserve account, the money stays there if it's not used. Todd Smith said that it's probably best to use that because we would have something to build funds for use lately. Cara Mason said she'd like to see us get another \$100,000.00, however the approach. Jeff Hewett thinks it makes more sense to try and put together a Capital Reserve and some from fundraising.

Lyn Govoni motioned, Jeff Hewett seconded for \$25,000.00 to put into Capital Reserve account for the Skowhegan Opera House. V 4-0, motion carried.

Cara Mason motioned, Lyn Govoni seconded to get \$50,000.00 from surplus. V 3-1, Jeff opposed; motion carried.

4. Update on lighting/electrical.

Selectmen approved bid for electrical work in the Opera House to go to High Voltage in the amount of \$2,875.00. Jeff Hewett said they should be starting the following week. They will be putting a new sub panel in the attack and bring power to lights which will allow us to put more lights up there if we want. It will give us 16 single outlets back sate by the electrical panels.

Cara Mason said that we received most of the lighting order from Port Lighting. All of the lights and cables have been received, but she will contact them to see where the controllers are from the order.

**Meeting adjourned at 3:29 pm.**