

## COMMITTEE UPDATE

Title: AVRL Board Meeting April 17, 2024

Date: April 28, 2024

Department: Committee of the Whole

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### AVRL Board Meeting Synopsis

The AVRL Board convened at 5pm on Thursday April 17, 2024 in the Berwick Council Chambers with all members present or virtual.

The main items on the agenda were Communication with CCTH, CEO Report, Finance Committee Report including Financial Statements, and Budget Update 2024-2025.

### Correspondence

- Correspondence has been received from 4 of 8 rural regional boards that they will not be renewing membership in Library Boards Association of Nova Scotia (LBANS). The future of the organization included all library trustees and has served as an advocacy group with the Provincial Government primarily for funding is currently undecided.
- CCTH letter confirming that \$800,000 will be provided to public libraries as bridge funding to offset inflationary pressures for the 2024-25 fiscal year.

### CEO Report Highlights

- Staffing
  - Part-time positions in Wolfville of 10-15 hours per week have been created by merging 2 vacant positions
  - AVRL continues to experience staff shortages due in part to winter flu season resulting in branch closures when no staff can be found among the 30 casual staff employed at any one time and about 45 permanent positions.
  - Program offerings have also been reduced to cope with level of staffing available.
- CCTH has provided AVRL with \$119,400 to deliver Food Security initiatives. All libraries in the province have been offered this grant.
- AVRL will be receiving approximately \$88,000 from the Provincial Bridge Funding for 2024-25, consistent with the current funding formula
- The Provincial Budget Review Committee meeting was held April 12, 2024 in Truro with meetings anticipated every 3 weeks going forward.
- Tickets for the Wolfville Branch project fundraising for Murder by the Book play are selling well. **[see Committee Update addendum for full report]**

### Financial Report

- Income Statement April 1, 2023 – March 15, 2024
    - The 2023-24 budget is tracking within anticipated budgeted amounts and should finish the year with no deficit or small surplus when all remaining entries and payments are made.
    - An updated 2024-2025 Budget was presented to include expense corrections and revenue increase from the Bridge Funding, postage reimbursement, Deposit Interest, HST and Printing.
    - 2024-2025 budget shows a deficit position of \$123,900 to be covered by reserves.
    - Gapping of staff positions combined with no deficit in 2023-2024, will help AVRL's financial resilience through 2025-26.
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Next Meeting June 20, 2024, AGM & Regular Board Meeting, 6pm Berwick Council Chambers

**Respectfully submitted by:**

**Janet Ness**

**AVRL Town of Wolfville Representative and Board Chair**

### **Addendum: Wolfville Library Fundraiser Murder by the Book**

The play **Murder by the Book** was a sold-out success over 3 performances and a well attended pay-as-you-can dress rehearsal. The talented cast and crew of local citizens and library supporters under the direction of Jill Davies and Barb Bates raised over \$12,000. It was a wonderful fundraising kick-off for the new Library and Town Hall project and we thank all those who attended and supported the initiative.

This play was conceived by author Laura Teasdale as a way to raise funds for libraries using the imaginary town of Three Pines which features in renowned mystery writer Louise Penney's Inspector Gamache series. With Louise Penney's sponsorship, Laura wanted to pass on a gift to all libraries and so Murder by the Book was born specifically for any library to use as a fundraiser. Wolfville Library's Fundraiser was the Canadian Premiere of the full production play!

Feedback from both the playwright, who had a cameo appearance in the Saturday matinee show and from many Wolfville residents has also been overwhelming and started an excited buzz for the Wolfville Library Fundraising Campaign.

The AVRL would like to thank the Town of Wolfville and Councilors for their ongoing support of the Wolfville Library, their recognition of the need for a new expanded space needed for our growing community, and the decision to budget for the project in the Town's 10 year capital plan in year 4 (2026/2027). We look forward to working closely with the Town of Wolfville in creating a dynamic Fund Raising Committee for a new expanded library and Town Hall that will become a vibrant part of the downtown and enhance Wolfville's reputation as a leader among Nova Scotia communities.

In the meantime, the AVRL Fundraising Committee is in the process of planning next steps to follow-up on opportunities that have arisen from Murder by the Book.