

**Joint Meeting of the Friends of Walworth Library and the Walworth-Seely Public Library
Board of Trustees
February 2, 2023
APPROVED**

- I. Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 11:05 am by Friends of the Walworth Library President Linda Knight

- II. Roll Call/Attendance
 - i. Friends of the Walworth Library Present: President Linda Knight; Secretary Dorothy French; Linda Pembroke
 - ii. Library Trustees Present: President Jessica Vance; Secretary Drew Britt and Financial Officer Anne Culver
 - iii. Library Staff Present: Library Director Anne Brown and Library Assistant Bernie Maurer

- III. Memorandum of Understanding between the Friends of Walworth Library and the Walworth Library Board of Trustees
 - i. The MOU was previously approved by both boards for 2023
 - ii. Signatures of the Library Board President, Library Director and the President of the Friends were obtained at this meeting.

- IV. Friends President Knight requested that Director Brown explain what Chapter 414 involves. Director Brown explained:
 - i. Chapter 414 is an amendment to the law regarding how to fund libraries
 - ii. Currently Walworth Library receives an allocation from the Town of Walworth. The amount received each year can go up or down depending on what the Town decides. They are only required to “responsibly fund the library.” The past several years, the Walworth Library has had cuts to the budget so the 414 is a more sustainable manner to fund the library, similar to how local fire departments are funded.
 - iii. With a 414, municipal boundaries would determine who would be able to vote on the Library’s budget and a vote would be held in November
 - iv. The process will be a year-long one:
 - 1. The educational process involving a fact sheet and information about the 414 reason the library is seeking this type of funding would be prepared.
 - 2. A petition for signatures would occur in April/May with the number of signatures determined by a percentage of residents who voted in the last governor’s election.

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3. After verification that the signatures are residents of Walworth and registered voters, these signatures would need to be sent into the Board of Elections by July
4. In September/October a more focused educational process would occur. Library staff and the Library Board of Trustees CANNOT do any campaigning for a “yes” vote. They can only provide facts and encourage people to vote. The Friends of the Library CAN do a “vote yes” campaign.
5. Some ideas were discussed about how the Friends might be helpful including a letter to the editor of the local paper supporting the 414 initiative; being present to obtain signatures from residents at scheduled library events and at the spring book sale; distributing a “vote yes” flier to be distributed by Mark’s Pizza in Walworth.

V. Adjournment:

Friends President Linda Knight adjourned the meeting at 11:34 am.