



**Minutes of the Executive Session  
The Flint Public Library  
Board of Trustees  
Tuesday, July 12, 2022**

**Board of Trustees Present:** Donna Bambury, Chairperson; Erin Bennett, George Cumming, and Maria Paikos-Hantzis.

**Others Present:** Andrew Sheehan, Town Administrator; Loretta Swift Johnson, Interim Library Director; Elizabeth Lydon, Town Counsel; and Paula Fee, Recording Secretary.

The Trustees agreed to enter Executive Session

1. Attorney Lydon stated she reviewed the complaint filed by Allison Sloan against the Board. She listed several reasons why she thought the allegations were not valid, including the complainant citing instances that occurred outside the 30-day window for filing and referencing instances that did not apply to the current complaint of collusion. However, she was attending the meeting to listen to what the Trustees had to say about the accusations in the complaint and to confirm whether collusion did or did not occur. Attorney Lydon noted all the facts would be gathered and then forwarded to the Attorney General's Office.
2. Ms. Bambury spoke first. She stated she had not participated in any collusion. Ms. Bambury said she never met with or talked to Mr. Cumming outside the Trustee meetings. She stated she ran into Ms. Bennett at the Middleton Earth Day event and had one phone call in which Ms. Bennett asked about the procedure for running for office. She added that the role of the Trustees is to be a collective, speaking in one voice. The Trustees should never, as individuals, interfere with the Director or staff in their jobs. As the new Chair, she is very concerned that staff members feel there is a lack of expected support from the Trustees. Ms. Bambury ended her statement by saying how upset she was at being accused of collusion.
3. Mr. Cumming stated that he had not met Ms. Bambury or Ms. Bennett outside of Trustee Meetings. His only contact was as Treasurer. He did add that he asked Ms. Bambury if she planned to run for office. Mr. Cumming said he found being accused of collusion both offensive and baseless, and he feels personally aggrieved by the complaint. He firmly stated he did not do it, and he rejected the accusation made in the complaint. He pointed out that the complainant's public records request to review emails, phone calls, and text messages of the accused parties returned no evidence of outside communications or collusion.
4. Ms. Bennett agreed with the statements made by Ms. Bambury and Mr. Cumming.
5. Ms. Paikos-Hantzis Offered a statement on the complaint against the Board of Trustees. She gave examples of possible ways collusion could have occurred between the parties. As an example, she did not see the other three trustees together publicly.
6. Attorney Lydon said the filed complaint was not correctly dated. She did not identify any open meeting law violations and she stated complaints couldn't be considered if they were older than thirty days. Attorney Lydon stated anything mentioned in the Executive Session should not be discussed.

She continued by saying there was no record of communications seen in the materials Trustees provided in compliance with the public records request. As a result, Attorney Lydon believes no collusion was shown.

She explained to Trustees what would or would not be considered collusion.

7. Mr. Sheehan suggested that Attorney Lydon make the response to the Attorney General's Office on behalf of the Board.

***Mr. Cumming made a motion to leave Executive Session. Ms. Paikos-Hantzis seconded the motion, and all were in favor.***