



Date: April 09, 2025

To: Mayor and Town Council

From: John Brock, Deputy Town Manager / Town Clerk

Re: Consideration and Approval: **Selection of Library Board Members**

Objective:

To appoint three members to the Library Board whose current terms are expiring and who are seeking reappointment.

Summary:

The Library Board of the Town of Howey-in-the-Hills is composed of volunteer residents who assist in guiding the programs, services, and strategic goals of the Town's public library. The terms of three current members—Jim Steele, Tahsia O'Keefe, and Beth Flack—are expiring, and all three individuals have submitted applications seeking reappointment to their respective seats.

The continued service of experienced board members contributes to institutional knowledge and continuity. However, the Town seeks to ensure that its advisory boards operate with full independence and are free from real or perceived conflicts of interest. To that end, the Town maintains the position that immediate family members of current Town employees should not be appointed or reappointed to serve on Town boards or committees. This best practice reflects a commitment to promoting public trust and maintaining the impartiality and integrity of the Town's advisory bodies and avoiding the appearance of favoritism or a concentration of influence within Town governance.

In this case, one of the applicants, Tahsia O'Keefe, is the spouse of the Town Manager. The Council is encouraged to take this into consideration when evaluating applicants and making appointments.

Fiscal Impact:

There is no fiscal impact. Library Board members serve on a voluntary basis and receive no compensation.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff does not make specific recommendations regarding individual applicants for the Library Board. However, it is the recommendation of staff that immediate family members of current Town employees not be appointed to serve on Town boards or committees.