

**Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting
Bernardsville Public Library
March 20, 2012**

Attendance: Patrice Cummings was absent. Karen Brodsky, Executive Director, Bernardsville Public Library (BPL); Roni Larini, President, Friends of the BPL (“Friends”) and Elizabeth Faulkner, Friends Recording Secretary; and Howard Lemberg, Chair of the Bernardsville Library Foundation (“Foundation”), Ed Landis, Secretary and a Foundation trustee, and Maud Thiebaud, a Foundation trustee, were also present.

President Donald Burset called the Board of Trustees (“Board”) meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and read the Open Meeting Notice, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Secretary Terry Thompson called the roll.

Director’s Report:

- Ms. Brodsky has reviewed the flexible spending account plan required by state law with Ralph Maresca, and proposed either a June 1 commencement date and a \$700 limit, or a July 1 commencement date and a \$600 limit. The Board agreed that either would be acceptable, depending on which is easier for Ms. Brodsky to accomplish.
- Ms. Brodsky asked John La Duc to discuss the emergence of a second joint energy purchasing group, suggested to the library by a Borough Council member whose businesses participate in the second group. If the library were to join the second group, we would have to terminate our membership in NJ SEM by March 22. Mr. La Duc said that he had not been able to complete a due diligence review of the second group, EMEX, but had looked at its auction results for the library and thought they were comparable to what we can reach with NJ SEM, in which the borough has been participating for a year. He recommended that the library stay with NJ SEM; the board agreed.
- Ms. Thompson moved that the HP Scanjet 7650 scanner, Dell PowerEdge 1500 SC server and Compaq 800 server are no longer needed for public service. Mr. La Duc seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Public Participation: Mrs. Larini said that the Friends will meet on March 21, that they have two new board members, have reached their fund drive goal and are working on awards for the Junior Volunteers.

Mr. Lemberg, for the Foundation, reiterated their three-part fund-raising model (mass mailing, Homes of Distinction, “major donor” solicitations). He said that the mass mailing letter is at the printers. Ms. Thompson asked if the letter had been changed as requested by two Board members to omit mention of the youth services director position as stemming from Foundation funding. Mr. Lemberg said that he had consulted his fundraising committee and that they had been unanimous in their decision to leave it in. He then quoted one phrase from a two-page email from Mr. Burset dated April 15, 2011, as a purported justification for his claiming the hiring of the youth services director as a Foundation accomplishment.

Mr. Burset told the Board that the requests to revise the letter had been made at the three-way meeting of Board, Friends and Foundation members on March 9, 2012, and that the Foundation had also been told that children's programs were historically and at present principally funded by the Friends. Further, Mr. Burset asked Mr. Lemberg if he had received an email from Mr. Burset dated March 14, 2012, in which Mr. Burset had again stated that Foundation funding was in no way directed toward youth services. Mr. Lemberg acknowledged receipt and asserted that he had shared the email with his fundraising committee.

Treasurer's Report, Bills and Finance Committee Report: John La Duc presented the Treasurer's Report and the bills. He reported that financial prospects for the current year looked reasonable, if everything that has been discussed materializes: \$897k from the borough, plus some additional help with operating expenses; \$65k from the Foundation, and \$15k, perhaps slightly more, from reserves. He reminded the Board that we cannot keep burning reserves but need to build a budget that replenishes them. Mr. McCrossan said that the Borough budget was scheduled for introduction on March 27 and for a public hearing and, perhaps, adoption 30 days later. He suggested not discussing any additional funding from the Borough until the budget was final, but that it looked as if we could meet our contingency budget. Although the valuations for next year are not yet official, Ralph Maresca has the numbers. Peter Miller said that Nancy Hunter, the school district's business administrator, also had the numbers. Mr. La Duc said that 2013 will be another financial challenge.

Ms. Thompson moved to approve the Treasurer's Report, to pay the new bills received from March 1-20, 2012 and to ratify the payment of bills received and paid from February 22-29. Mr. Miller seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Committee Reports:

Finance: included with the Treasurer's Report.

Personnel: no report.

Policy: no report.

Long-Range Planning: Mike Gouldin reported that the draft plan had been completed as discussed in February, and emailed, with two additional minor changes. The Board agreed to the two additional changes and readopted the plan as presented, with great thanks to Karen Brodsky and Mike Gouldin for their leadership and draftsmanship.

Communications: Mr. Burset reminded the Board about the Morris-Union Federation dinner, and mentioned a note from Fran Fischer, a letter from Governor Christie congratulating the library, and a letter sent to Barbara Long with our explanation of the solar panel decision.

Mr. Miller left the meeting at 6:47 pm.

Minutes: Ms. Thompson moved the draft February minutes as submitted. Maribeth Southworth seconded the motion, which carried.

New Business: Mr. Buset announced that he was appointing a Contingency Planning Committee, to help close the budget gap if we have one, to consist of Mmes. Cummings and Thompson and Messrs. Gouldin and La Duc. Mr. Buset will not serve on the committee.

There being no further business, at 6:50 p.m. Mr. La Duc moved to adjourn the meeting; Lucy Orfan seconded the motion, which carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry A. Thompson. Secretary