

**Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting
Bernardsville Public Library
October 21, 2008**

Attendance: All members were present except Lucy Orfan and John McCrossan. Tom Shea, President of the Friends of the Bernardsville Library (“Friends”) and Karen Brodsky, Executive Director, Bernardsville Public Library, were also present.

Stephanie Wallace called the Board of Trustees (“Board”) meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. and read the Open Meeting Notice.

Public Participation: Mr. Shea said that the Friends were looking at different fund-raising approaches. They had a reception for new buyers of bricks, and are having a silhouette artist at the library in November; proceeds will go to the Friends. Their new banner is on display in the library.

Minutes: Jim Kellett moved approval of the minutes of the meeting of September 16 as submitted; Terry Thompson seconded the motion, which carried.

Director’s Report: Karen Brodsky noted that, since she prepared her written report, the library, through the efforts of Michaele Casey, has received two grants from SHEF (Somerset Hills Educational Foundation, the first, for \$1200, for renewal of the library as a Loomis testing site, the second, for \$1500, for preparation of a local history booklet for children. The Board expressed its gratitude.

☺ **The library has been top-rated again in New Jersey, No. 1 in our population category, and No. 2 overall in the entire state. The Board was extremely pleased and proud, but said that we expected nothing less! Seriously, we offered excited and fond congratulations to Karen and all our wonderful staff for these formidable achievements.**

If Mrs. Wallace is unable to attend the first Morris-Union District meeting with Ms. Brodsky, Donald Burset will go.

Treasurer’s Report: Jim Kellett presented the Treasurer’s Report and thanked Karen and the staff for being “frugal with the year-end spending”, so that we may be able to add several thousand dollars to our working reserve, against future needs. Ms. Thompson moved to accept the Treasurer’s Report, to pay the new bills received from October 1-21, 2008 and to ratify the payment of bills received and paid from September 17-30, 2008. Russ Giglio seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Committee Reports:

Finance: Although the committee did not meet, Mr. Kellett presented the revised proposed operating budget, revised to reflect the projections of a decrease in municipal equalized valuation and commensurate decreases in operating spending and other income. Maribeth Southworth moved to accept the revised proposed budget as presented. Mr. Giglio seconded the motion, which carried.

Personnel: No report.

Policy: Ms. Thompson reported that the committee met, and decided to withdraw its recommendation for the “Wall of Honor” (the expensive version) in light of the current economic situation. We will continue with the calligraphic version that is presently in use.

The committee also considered an equipment loaning policy. In Board discussion there was a consensus that loaning of equipment to persons for use on-site, for example a projector and screen for a meeting in the Community Room, would be acceptable, but there was some concern about loaning equipment for use off site. We discussed deposits, the form of a deposit, and other issues. Ms. Thompson moved to go forward with the committee's recommendation for on-site loans but to hold off-site loans in abeyance for the time being. Mr. Giglio seconded the motion, which carried.

Long-Range Planning: Did not meet but will meet before the next Board meeting.

Communications: None.

Old Business: Ms. Brodsky provided the specifications that the borough has received for the lighting improvement, which cannot be accomplished before the change from Daylight Savings Time. She intends to inquire of Mr. Maresca whether the borough would purchase light bulbs to replace those that are not working, since the delay in replacement has been caused by the borough. There is nothing to report on the Green Initiative.

New Business: Our first Volunteer Recognition event, recognizing John Lyga, the creator of the Children's Sunday Science Program, will be on Sunday, Nov. 23, from 2-3 pm. We have received the borough's permission to have a "champagne toast". The annual party for the staff will be on November 14, 5:30-?, at Terry Thompson's.

At 6:45 pm, Mrs. Wallace moved that the Board go into executive session to discuss a staff suggestion. At 7:05 pm, the Board returned to public session, and Mr. Giglio moved to adjourn the meeting; Mr. Kellett seconded the motion, which carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Thompson, Secretary