

**Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting
Bernardsville Public Library
April 19, 2010**

Attendance: Mr. Buset was absent. John Deibert, President of the Friends of the Bernardsville Public Library (“Friends”), Roni Larini, Vice President of the Friends, and Karen Brodsky, Executive Director, Bernardsville Public Library, were also present. Because of the change in the meeting date, the meeting was held in the Small Meeting Room, so we were grateful that there was no larger public turnout!

Stephanie Wallace called the Board of Trustees (“Board”) meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and read the Open Meeting Notice.

Public Participation: Mr. Deibert said that the violinist for the most recent “Sundays at Three” program had been really excellent.

Minutes: Jim Kellett moved approval of the minutes of the March meeting as submitted; Patrice Cummings seconded the motion, which carried.

Director’s Report: Ms. Brodsky presented highlights and additions to her written report, as follows:

- The National Library Week food bank collection will be sent to the Morristown Interfaith Food Pantry.
- The telephone service failures have been remedied without patron complaints.
- The possible expense and time savings will be evaluated.
- Terry Thompson moved to accept the Revised Technology Plan attached to the board package; Lucy Orfan seconded the motion, which carried.
- The policy committee will reconsider the loaned equipment policy, but in the meantime we will do a trial of lending the laptop (donated by the VFW) for use within the library.
- The Friends had previously agreed to fund replacing the carpets in the Youth Services and Young Adult areas with carpet tiles, both for ease of replacement and because the areas are worn. After some discussion, the board decided to postpone this; the Friends will be asked to hold the funds over into 2011.
- The proposal to redo the Circulation Desk and Reader’s Services areas is being scaled down to inserting a window at the end of the office shared by Pat Kennedy-Grant and Madelyn English, so that these department heads can see when they are needed on the floor.

Treasurer’s Report: Mr. Kellett reviewed the Treasurer’s Report and bills, mentioning that the book sales are up as a result of volunteer involvement, and that photocopy expense will go down next year because of the renegotiated lease. Electric costs will be within the year’s budget. John McCrossan noted that the minimum required municipal appropriation for the library is approximately \$860,000, but because of a one-time “windfall” at the municipal level, the budget that was introduced on April 26 contains \$897,000 for the library. The board, heaving a collective sigh of relief, thanked Mr. McCrossan and the council for this breathing space. Mr. McCrossan said that next year will be another difficult year for the municipal and school district

budgets and that the library needs to continue to work on supplementing the municipal appropriation. He suggested a note of appreciation to the Mayor, John Macdowell and Ralph Maresca for the lighting improvement now that it is complete and approved.

Ms. Thompson moved to approve the Treasurer's Report, to pay the new bills received from April 1-19, 2010, and to ratify the payment of bills received and paid from March 12-31, 2010... Maribeth Southworth seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

Committee Reports: Finance is trying to schedule a meeting. Personnel will meet on April 28. Policy and Long Range Planning have not met.

Foundation Research: Before discussing the possible foundation, Ms. Brodsky reviewed the possible losses if the State Library budget is cut as the governor has proposed: Interlibrary loans will lose the funding for transport and other databases will disappear. The State Library and NJLA are trying to make backup plans and have suggested that local libraries wait to see what they come up with. Peter Miller stated that the school district has been directed to lay off its library aides, which means a greater after-school burden for our library. He was questioned about possible volunteer replacements.

Foundation discussion: Ms. Southworth described Kenneth Grounds's involvement with SHEF from her perspective: he recommended against a fund-raising event and supported a direct contribution campaign, and the Chili Cookoff raises \$100,000 for SHEF each year. She inquired about Grounds's success with libraries; Ms. Brodsky said that she had checked out the two references he gave for library-related foundations, both had been successful and were still in existence. Ms. Thompson said that she believed the foundation could be established without a consultant. Mr. Miller pointed out that fund-raising events were much easier to do with the extensive volunteer resources available for schools – parents! Mr. McCrossan estimated that the municipal appropriation might be as much as \$80,000-\$100,000 less in 2011, without addressing staff shortfalls. Mr. Miller suggested we also look at professional grant-writing firms, and offered to pass the name of the firm the school district uses on to Ms. Brodsky, an offer that was gratefully accepted. Mr. Deibert said that there still needed to be some crystallizing of the board's thoughts. Mrs. Wallace said that we would discuss this again in May, and either decide to go with a foundation and the consultant the committee had recommended, or establish a new committee to work on other scenarios.

Communications: Ms. Brodsky said she had received the energy audit and had some questions to put to John Macdowell.

At 8:25 pm Mrs. Wallace moved that the board go into executive session to discuss a personnel matter. Mr. Kellett seconded the motion, which carried. At 8:50 pm, the executive session ended. The board took no further action and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry A. Thompson
Secretary