

**Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting  
Bernardsville Public Library  
April 12, 2011**

**Attendance:** All Trustees were present. John Deibert, President of the Friends of the Bernardsville Public Library (“Friends”) and Karen Brodsky, Executive Director, Bernardsville Public Library, were also present. Howard Lemberg, Chair of the Bernardsville Library Foundation (“Foundation”) arrived at 5:45.

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

**Public Participation:** Mr. Deibert said that the Friends would be holding their annual luncheon for staff members and volunteers on May 13 at the home of Roni Larini and invited the Board to attend.

**Minutes:** Patrice Cummings moved to approve the minutes with one correction (spelling of Phil Kennedy-Grant’s first name. John La Duc seconded the motion, which carried.

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

- This week is Library Week.
- At the staff meeting on April 21 the library will celebrate Rosalie Baker’s 25<sup>th</sup>, and Susan Popper’s 5<sup>th</sup>, service anniversaries.
- There are some problems with reference traffic, in part because of the discontinuance of Q & A New Jersey; we are using a 2-way radio to locate Karen Vaias when reference needs arise.
- The new NYTimes online access policy may limit its use as an online reference.
- Since library funding will now appear as a separate line item on the tax bill, the library would like the Borough to include information with the next tax bill that this is not a new tax, just a different way of showing library tax funding. John McCrossan mentioned that the Borough municipal budget had been introduced at the Council meeting last night (April 11) and included \$897,085 for the library. He also mentioned that as a result of the library tax being reported separately, there is a slight decrease in the allowable total property tax levy amount established by the 2% cap.
- There was a brief discussion of a “Rice” letter; Mr. Miller clarified that an employee who received such a letter could be accompanied by an attorney or a union shop steward to the performance discussion even if it took place in executive session.
- Circulation is up.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Mr. La Duc presented the Treasurer’s Report, explaining that the 6-months delay in hiring a replacement for Michael Casey plus the anticipated fundraising by the Foundation would make up the expected budget shortfall. He said that the Finance Committee was working on some tweaks to the monthly reports. Ms. Thompson moved to approve the Treasurer’s Report, to pay the new bills received from April 1-12, 2011 and to ratify the payment of bills received and paid from March 16-31, 2011. Mrs. Cummings seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous roll call vote.

**Further Public Participation:** Mr. Lemberg expressed his thanks to Mrs. Cummings and Mr. Gouldin, and said that the Foundation had added 5 additional trustees. Mr. Lemberg also said that some of the persons he had contacted had expressed concern that the Borough was not providing more support to the library. When asked how he had responded, he indicated that he had not disagreed with those people. Mr. McCrossan pointed out that property values had decreased over 15% in Bernardsville since 2008, that all expenses were up, and that the Borough was giving the library almost \$50,000 over the statutory minimum appropriation. Mr. Burset and others seconded Mr. McCrossan's response to Mr. Lemberg.

**Committee Reports:**

**Finance, Long-Range Planning, Personnel, Personnel:** No reports.

**Bylaws Ad Hoc Committee:** Ms. Thompson moved the suggested revisions; Mr. La Duc seconded the motion, which carried. Mr. Burset thanked the ad hoc committee (Mmes. Orfan and Thompson and Mr. La Duc) and dissolved it.

**Communications:** Notes from several staff members regarding the Board's actions to improve morale were circulated.

**Old Business:**

**Solar Panels:** We have little more information than last month; there will be public presentations later in April and in May. The county's consultant has asked if he should consider cantilevered panels in the parking lot.

**Recognition of Former Board Members Kellett and Wallace:** Perhaps after the May meeting; Mr. Burset will try to schedule something.

**New Business:** None.

There being no further business, at 6:55 Mr. Gouldin moved to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Thompson and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry A. Thompson  
Secretary