

**MASSAPEQUA PUBLIC LIBRARY  
MINUTES  
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
JUNE 8, 2009**

The regular monthly meeting of the Library Board of Trustees was held on Monday, June 8, 2009, at 7:45 p.m., in the Bar Harbour building.

Present:           Rosemary Gensler, Chairman  
                  Catherine R. Reilly, Vice Chairman  
                  Anthony J. Demasco, Treasurer  
                  Gail K. Kubit, Secretary  
                  Patricia Page, Director  
                  Maris Job, Assistant Director  
                  Jody Brower, Secretary to the Director

Absent:           John H. Laibach, Trustee (with notice)  
                  Linda Masella, Principal Account Clerk (with notice)

Also Present:    Joanna Fantozzi, Massapequa Post  
                  John Iovino, Bender Insurance  
                  Arlene Martin, Patron  
                  Joy Schilling, Patron  
                  Bette Cammisa, Patron  
                  Janet Schwartz, Patron  
                  Ginger Gibbon, Patron  
                  Pat O'Brien, Patron

Mrs. Gensler called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m., and opened it with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Mrs. Gensler welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the Board. Joanna Fantozzi was asked to address the Board.

Ms. Fantozzi advised she was doing an article on the Library for the Massapequa Post and asked how the current economic climate was effecting the Library.

The Board advised that in these economic times, the Library has become very important to the community. Library usage has increased. Patrons are coming into the Library to read books, newspapers and magazines instead of buying them. They are taking out movies on DVDs instead of paying for them. The Library has added programs on resumé writing and interviewing skills that were not on our agenda 2 years ago in an effort to meet the current needs of the community.

Ms. Fantozzi asked how has this effected the Library in general

The Board advised that the staff is very busy and everyone is great. Usage is up and the community is satisfied; we receive letters of praise from the patrons for the Library, its services and staff. Program attendance is up; we have increased attendance in our Teen Game Café. The Library will open up on certain Friday nights only for the YA programs, which provides a nice safe social environment for them.

Ms. Fantozzi asked if the Board felt it was a positive occurrence overall.

The Board advised that increased usage is always a positive occurrence. In this economy this Library is serving and providing services that people have a need for, which is really the intent. The Board wants to make sure that the entire Massapequa community realizes what a great resource the Library is.

The Board suggested that Ms. Fantozzi speak with the Director who would provide her with a current newsletter and calendar so she can see what type of programs we offer.

Ms. Fantozzi left the meeting at 7:56 p.m.

The Board addressed the attending patrons.

The Patrons advised that they had come to the meeting to find out why the trailer is being taken off the road and why it wasn't on the vote. The Board advised that the Trailer is not part of the vote, only the budget is presented to the public and they vote on the budget.

One Patron asked, if more & more people are coming to the Library then why take it away? The Board replied that the Trailer is no longer safe. The roof leaks, the frame is so rusted we've been told it won't pass inspection, and the electrical connections to the poles are unsafe.

A patron asked if the Board took bids for a new trailer. The Board advised that they no longer make trailers, they make bookmobiles, similar to a bus, with less interior room at a cost of \$300,000 to \$400,000.

One Patron remarked that a lot of senior citizens use the Trailer and it's a long walk to either building. The Board advised that the Library offers home bound patron services. A Patron remarked that you had to be handicapped to use this service. The Board advised that anyone who needs it can use the service. The Patron asked how the home bound patron service is handled. The Board advised that a Reference Librarian currently handles it, but that if it gets too big, they will revisit the procedure.

Arlene Martin read a letter she was sending to the Massapequa Post to the Board and asked why the Board didn't start to put money aside. The Board advised that the Library can't carry a large surplus in its budget. The same patron remarked that the Board purposely hid the fact that they were taking the Trailer off the road. The Board informed the patrons that the issue was not done behind closed doors. The Board meets once a month at an open meeting, no one comes. Mrs. Gensler wanted the patrons to understand something - the whole discussion has been going on for a year and a half. We were hoping to save it. It was not a decision that was made lightly. We fixed it and fixed it and fixed it to the point that we can't fix it any more. It's not a decision that any of us wanted to make. The Board felt that in these economic times it would be irresponsible to the community for us to spend \$300,000 to \$400,000. We have to think about not what we would like to do, but what would be good for the community. We really wish we could put into words how bad we feel. We are not happy about it, but it has to be. Trailer usage is only 10% of total circulation. We are committed to doing the best we can with the home bound service. If anyone has a problem then you can come into the Library and the Board will help you as best they can.

A Patron asked when was the last time the budget was voted down? The Board said never, but that doesn't mean it couldn't happen.

Another Patron said it's a shame. The Board agreed. But advised that the current trailer staff will be working in the buildings so they could talk to people they know. The Board further advised that they are working on trying to get an entrance to the Bar Harbor building from the parking lot and to have it be done by the winter.

On another issue a Patron stated that she hates little pieces of paper given out instead of cards, they have all different dates on them and she always ends up being late. The Board advised that the cards are gone and that it was done systemwide - all of Nassau County now uses the receipt printer. None of the Board members were thrilled about it, but there is not really anything they can do about it. They looked into getting a printer with heavier paper, but couldn't find one.

The Patron asked if we can we have a slip for every book? The Board said yes, she should just ask at the desk.

Mr. Demasco advised the Patrons that Albany is trying to pass legislation that consolidates fire districts and library districts which would do away with the Board so Mr. Suozzi will run your Library. If you want to have an additional voice say we don't want that, we want local control.

The patrons left the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

The Board discussed having someone beside a professional doing the book delivery.

John Iovino addressed the Board. He explained the insurance proposals. The Board decided to stay with Utica. Mr. Iovino advised that Utica asked if we wanted to increase our coverage - currently we pay \$175 a square foot, Utica suggests \$232 or \$187 a square foot. The Board declined to increase the coverage.

The Board asked Mr. Iovino if we had adequate coverage if we were having someone deliver books in their own vehicle. He advised it would come from the liability coverage, but that employee's car insurance would come first and the Library would be secondary. The Board did not feel it was right to expose an employee to such liability. Books should be delivered in a Library vehicle. Lee Gundel should continue to pick out the books and the Custodians should deliver them.

Mr. Iovino left the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Mrs. Gensler will call Carolyn James and respond to the letter from Arlene Martin.. The Board would like Mrs. Gensler to make it clear to Ms. James that what they resented most about the letter was the intimation that the Board had done it behind closed doors when they have open meetings.

After consideration, on motion by Mrs. Kubit, seconded by Mr. Demasco, and carried, Board Meeting Minutes dated May 11, 2009, were approved.

After consideration, on motion by Mrs. Gensler, seconded by Ms. Reilly, and carried, Monthly Treasurer's Report, dated May 31, 2009, balance \$828,213.20, was approved.

After consideration, on motion by Mrs. Gensler, seconded by Mr. Demasco, and carried, Monthly Financial Report dated May 31, 2009, was approved.

After consideration, on motion by Mrs. Gensler, seconded by Ms. Reilly, and approved, Voucher No. 2078, dated May 6, 2009, \$20,005.71 (check no. 22703-22738), signed by Mrs. Kubit, was approved.

After consideration, on motion by Mrs. Gensler, seconded by Mr. Demasco, and carried, Supplement No. 1 to Voucher No. 2079, dated May 11, 2009, \$4,627.50 (check no.22739), signed by Mrs. Kubit, was approved.

After consideration, on motion by Mrs. Gensler, seconded by Mrs. Kubit, and carried, Supplement No. 1 to Voucher No. 2078, dated May 13, 2009, \$87,331.69 (check nos. 22740 - 22777), signed by Ms. Reilly, was approved.

After consideration, on motion by Mrs. Gensler, seconded by Mr. Demasco, and carried, Supplement No. 1 to Voucher No. 2080, dated May 21, 2009, \$4,627.50 (check no. 22778), signed by Ms. Reilly, was approved.

After consideration, on motion by Mrs. Gensler, seconded by Mr. Demasco, and carried, Supplement No. 2 to Voucher No. 2078, dated May 27, 2009, \$1,852.00 (check nos. 22779-22780), signed by Mrs. Kubit, was approved.

After consideration, on motion by Mrs. Gensler, seconded by Mrs. Kubit, and carried, Voucher No. 2081, dated May 29, 2009, \$27,490.54 (check nos. 22781 - 22815), signed by Ms. Reilly, was approved.

After consideration, on motion by Mrs. Gensler, seconded by Mr. Demasco, and carried, Voucher No. 2082, dated June 3, 2009, \$15,202.51 (check nos. 22816 - 22856), signed by Ms. Reilly, was approved.

Payroll Voucher No.2079, dated May 15, 2009, \$114,191.25, wire transfer, signed by Mrs. Kubit, was reviewed.

Payroll Voucher No.2080, dated May 31, 2009, \$110,802.72, wire transfer, signed by Mrs. Kubit, was reviewed.

### **Director's Report**

The Director's Report covering Communications, Personnel, and Building and Grounds, Materials and Services and Public Relations, and Staff Report dated May, 2009, were reviewed. Copies are attached to these minutes.

#### **I. Communications**

A) The Board would like our attorneys to review the Overdrive contract with an eye towards the Library's liability. The sign-up date is June 30<sup>th</sup>. If no decision is made by then, we will have to wait until next year.

B) Ms. Reilly executed the Staff Association Agreement on behalf of the Board of Trustees.

C) Signatories for the First National Bank of Long Island will be the same as for the Chase Manhattan account.

#### **II. Personnel**

A) Attorney Desmond feels that Paychex made the mistake. He will write a letter to Paychex for the Director to sign. He does not believe staff will be subject to penalties; interest and preparation fees should amount to \$4,000 to \$5,000. He feels the Library should pay the interest, pay the accountant fees up to a limit, and then go to Paychex for reimbursement.

The Board prefers approaching Paychex for the interest and accountant fees.

Mr. Desmond further advised that you have to wait until employees make claim for these funds to the Library before we go to Paychex.

B) After consideration, on motion by Mrs. Gensler, seconded by Mrs. Kubit, and carried, the Board approved leave of absence for Lee Viola beginning immediately after all her accrued leave time is depleted.

Brianna Carnavale will be returning to work on June 9, 2009.

### **III. Building and Grounds**

A) The Board likes the pricing for the AT&T cell phone plan, but we should make sure the service works in the basement before we commit to it.

### **IV. Materials and Services**

A) Now that the Trailer will be taken off the road, the Board agreed that the BH Children's Department could keep the extra \$1,000 given to them in their book budget for Trailer materials and use it in their programming budget.

### **V. Public Relations**

A) The Board would like Mrs. Page to reach out to the staff for ideas for "Green" day and present those ideas at the August Board Meeting.

B) Fuschetto advised that there are "green" pesticides, but it doesn't work as well and has to be applied more often.

### **VI. New Business**

A) We should contact the landscaper about cleaning up the Children's patio at Bar Harbour and adding some colorful plants.

B) Gail Kubit remarked that after reviewing the old minutes, she noted that Mrs. Gensler wanted us to get T-shirts for the staff to wear during Banned Books Week. Jody Brower advised that the 2009 shirts are not available yet. Mrs. Gensler requested that we have a showcase display in both buildings and that we should reach out to the staff for suggestions on how to celebrate Banned Book Week and report back to her by June 29<sup>th</sup>.

C) The Board wants Mrs. Page to submit the Massapequa Public Library to ALIS to be one of the pilot libraries for RFID. They understand that we will have to dedicate a staff member to this project who will attend meetings; submit written evaluations, and oversee the project.

On motion by Ms Reilly, seconded by Mr. Demasco, and carried, the meeting was adjourned at 10:03 p.m.

The next Board of Trustees Regular Monthly Meeting and Annual Reorganization Meeting will be held on Monday, August 10, 2009 at 7:45 p.m. at the BH Library.

---

Rosemary Gensler, Chairman

---

Gail Kubit, Secretary