



BERGENFIELD LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
Conducted virtually via Zoom

Minutes
May 13, 2021

Present

Thomas Neats, President
Barbara Chittum, Recording Secretary
Marcela Deauna, Treasurer
Fanny Cruz-Betesh
Thomas Lodato, Council Liaison (arrived 8:00 pm)
Christopher Langschultz, Alternate for Superintendent of Schools
Allison Ballo, Director
Jennifer Murray, Administrative Assistant

President Neats called the meeting to order at 7:33 pm.

Notification of Public Meeting

President Neats read the report on public notification of this meeting.

Minutes

Because Ms. Cruz-Betesh and Ms. Deauna were not present at the March 11, 2021 meeting, there is still no quorum of the Trustees present to approve that meetings minutes. The March minutes will be formally approved at the June 10, 2021 meeting.

**Motion by Ms. Cruz-Betesh to accept the April 08, 2021 meeting minutes.
Ms. Deauna seconded the motion.**

On a roll call, the vote was recorded as follows:

Ms. Chittum – Yes
Ms. Cruz-Betesh – Yes
Ms. Deauna - Yes
Councilman Lodato - Yes
Mr. Neats – Yes
Mr. Langschultz - Abstain

The motion carried.

Bills

**Motion by Ms. Chittum to approve the May 13, 2021 bill list.
Ms. Cruz-Betesh seconded the motion.**

On a roll call, the vote was recorded as follows:

Ms. Chittum – Yes
Ms. Cruz-Betesh – Yes
Ms. Deauna - Yes



Councilman Lodato – Absent at time of vote

Mr. Neats – Yes

Mr. Langschultz - Yes

The motion carried.

Public Portion.

Lois Alexander, Head of Circulation, spoke in favor of reopening the Library.

Correspondence

President Neats read a card from staff member William Fischer thanking the board for their condolences on the passing of his father.

President's Report

President Neats reported that he attended the Earth Day program hosted by the Library and the DPW Recycling program and said that the program was well attended and thanked the staff for their enthusiasm. President Neats shared that he, along with Ms. Chittum, Ms. Deauna, Ms. Phipps and Mayor Amatorio, attended an all staff meeting and thanked the staff on behalf of the board their exceptional efforts during the pandemic. President Neats reported that the negotiating team met separately and with CWA.

Committee Reports

BCCLS and Friends

Ms. Ballo announced that a BCCLS Scholarship was awarded to Adult Services Associate, Kristie Murru.

Ms. Ballo reported that the Friends will be bringing back the town-wide garage sale fundraiser this year, scheduled for October 2nd and 3rd. President Neats mentioned the need to promote interest and active memberships with the Friends.

Building & Grounds

Ms. Ballo reported that the HVAC installation for the 7 rooftop units took place. The work has been mostly completed and one unit required troubleshooting as it was not communicating with the computer panel. Ms. Ballo estimates the project will be signed off on and payments to PSE&G will begin in July. Ms. Ballo advised that she has started looking into the possibility of having outdoor lockers in order to serve patrons when we are not physically onsite and will present her findings to the Board at a later date.

Finance Committee

The financial summary was distributed and discussed.

Personnel

No report.

Policy

No report.

Director's Report

Ms. Ballo reported on the Passport Acceptance program and its success thus far. Ms. Ballo reported that the Library was awarded the NJSL CARES Act mini-grant and is in the process of purchasing the digital literacy equipment. Ms. Ballo advised that she met with the grant writers about our NJSL Construction Bond Act Grant



program application for the renovations for the Teen room. Ms. Ballo made a recommendation to the Board regarding reopening the Library to the public. Discussion followed.

Motion by Ms. Deauna to approve reopening the Bergenfield Library to the public on May 24, 2021 at the current hours and following CDC guidelines and protocols to ensure staff safety. Ms. Chittum seconded the motion.

On a roll call, the vote was recorded as follows:

Ms. Chittum – Yes
Ms. Cruz-Betesh – Yes
Ms. Deauna - Yes
Councilman Lodato - Yes
Mr. Neats – Yes
Mr. Langschultz - Yes

The motion carried.

Trustee Education

No report.

Old Business

No report.

New Business

Resolution #2021-11 Authorizing the Borough of Bergenfield to dispose of certain library property through internet auction was presented to the Board. Discussion followed.

Motion by Ms. Cruz-Betesh to approve Resolution 2021-11 authorizing the disposal of library property through internet auction. Mr. Langschultz seconded the motion.

On a roll call, the vote was recorded as follows:

Ms. Chittum – Yes
Ms. Cruz-Betesh – Yes
Ms. Deauna - Yes
Councilman Lodato - Yes
Mr. Neats – Yes
Mr. Langschultz - Yes

The motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Chittum to go into Closed Session to discuss personnel and contract negotiations at 8:22 pm. Ms. Deauna seconded the motion

On a roll call, the vote was recorded as follows:

Ms. Chittum – Yes
Ms. Cruz-Betesh – Yes
Ms. Deauna - Yes



Councilman Lodato - Yes
Mr. Neats – Yes
Mr. Langschultz - Yes

The motion carried.

**Motion by Ms. Deauna to return to open session at 8:36 pm.
Ms. Chittum seconded the motion.**

**Motion by Mr. Langschultz to approve the 2021 – 2023 Memorandum of Understanding with the Communications Workers of America, AFL-CIO Local 1031 who represent the bargaining employees of the Bergenfield Library. This Memorandum of Understanding shows a 1.75% salary increase for 2021, 1.75% increase for 2022 and 1.75% increase for 2023, as well as clarification of certain language in the existing contract.
Ms. Cruz-Betesh seconded the motion.**

On a roll call, the vote was recorded as follows:

Ms. Chittum – Yes
Ms. Cruz-Betesh – Yes
Ms. Deauna - Yes
Councilman Lodato - Yes
Mr. Neats – Yes
Mr. Langschultz - Yes

The motion carried.

**Motion by Mrs. Chittum to approve a salary increase for the Library Director in line with the January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2023 contract with the Communications Workers of America, AFL-CIO Local 1031 and the employees of the Bergenfield Library shows a 1.75% salary increase for 2021, 1.75% increase for 2022 and 1.75% increase for 2023.
Ms. Cruz Betesh seconded the motion.**

On a roll call, the vote was recorded as follows:

Ms. Chittum – Yes
Ms. Cruz-Betesh – Yes
Ms. Deauna - Yes
Councilman Lodato - Yes
Mr. Neats – Yes
Mr. Langschultz - Yes

The motion carried.

**Motion by Mrs. Chittum to approve a salary increase for the Administrative Secretary in line with the January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2023 contract with the Communications Workers of America, AFL-CIO Local 1031 and the employees of the Bergenfield Library shows a 1.75% salary increase for 2021, 1.75% increase for 2022 and 1.75% increase for 2023.
Ms. Cruz Betesh seconded the motion.**

On a roll call, the vote was recorded as follows:

Ms. Chittum – Yes



Ms. Cruz-Betesh – Yes
Ms. Deauna - Yes
Councilman Lodato - Yes
Mr. Neats – Yes
Mr. Langschultz - Yes

The motion carried.

Adjournment

**Motion by Mr. Langschultz to adjourn the meeting.
Councilman Lodato seconded the motion.**

On a roll call, the vote was recorded as follows:

Ms. Chittum – Yes
Ms. Cruz-Betesh – Yes
Ms. Deauna - Yes
Councilman Lodato - Yes
Mr. Neats – Yes
Mr. Langschultz - Yes

The motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:43 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Chittum

Jennifer Murray, Recorder for
Barbara Chittum, Recording Secretary