

Minutes of the Board of Trustees of the Manhasset Public Library

Held at the Library in the second floor conference room on Monday February 13, 2012.

Session called to order at 7:10 p.m.

Attendance

Board Members: Heidi McNamara, President
Elisa Paone, Vice President
Donald T. O’Brien, Financial Secretary
Robert Carrozzo, Trustee
Joanne Kesten, Trustee
Maggie Gough, Director

Attending : Ralph Hochuli, CPA
Secretary to the Board Gail J. Neufeld (Absent) *M. Gough substituted*

Minutes from previous session

Motion by Heidi McNamara, seconded by Robert Carrozzo, to accept the January 17, 2012 minutes with amendments as requested.

Yes – McNamara, Paone, Carrozzo, Kesten, O’Brien
No – none

Financial Report and Vouchers

Motion by Heidi McNamara seconded by Robert Carrozzo to approve the Financial Reports and vouchers dated February 2012.

Yes – McNamara, Paone, O’Brien, Carrozzo, Kesten
No – none

Vouchers

Voucher	Dtd. 1/16/12	Operating	\$ 59,767.61
Voucher #553	Dtd. 1/19/12	Payroll	67,051.20
Voucher	Dtd. 2/1/12	Operating	78,864.00
Voucher #554	Dtd. 2/2/12	Payroll	76,724.69

Administrative and Statistics Reports

Director's Report

The Director presented the first draft of the 2012-13 Budget for the Board to review and question. The Library's accountant, Ralph Hochuli, was on hand to answer any immediate questions the Board had regarding the proposed budget, the new format and how calculations were derived. The Board will email questions or issues to the Director which will be addressed in a subsequent budget review session.

The Director asked the Board members to review the proposed color pallet for the Café area which favors warm golden shades for the Café walls. The Board members approved of the color choices. Installation of the new counter, reorganization of space and materials, painting and cleaning will begin in two to three weeks. The Café will be closed for a week during the renovation process and plans are being implemented to guarantee patrons' access to materials kept in that space.

- Reference Department
- Children's Department
- Facilities Report

Director responded to all questions asked by the Board.

Statistics

- Program Attendance Statistics
- Children's Library Statistics
- Circulation Statistics
- Overdrive Statistics

Director responded to all questions asked by the Board.

Motion by Heidi McNamara, seconded by Elisa Paone, to accept the Administrative Report and Statistics dated February 13, 2012.

Yes – McNamara, Paone, O'Brien, Carrozzo, Kesten

No – none

Old Business:

Resolution to exceed the tax cap:

Whereas, the adoption of the 2012-13 budget for the Manhasset Public Library may require a tax levy increase that exceeds the tax cap imposed by state law as outlined in General Municipal Law Section 3-c adopted in 2011; and

Whereas, General Municipal Law Section 3-c expressly permits the library board to override the tax levy limit by a resolution approved by a vote of sixty percent of qualified board members; now therefore be it

Resolved, that the Board of Trustees of the Manhasset Public Library voted and approved to exceed the tax levy limit for 2012-13 by at least the sixty percent of the board of trustees as required by state law on February 13, 2012.

Motion by Heidi McNamara, seconded by Robert Carrozzo to accept the decision to exceed the tax cap for the 2012-13 budget year.

Yes – McNamara, Paone, O'Brien, Carrozzo, Kesten

No – none

On the Tax cap override: Board statement

The State has recently enacted a tax cap which limits increases to the Libraries' budget to 2%. A 60% vote of the Board is required to override this cap. In light of the uncertainties surrounding the implementation of the new cap and the penalties which may be imposed if the cap is exceeded, the Board has voted unanimously to exceed the cap. This authority **ALLOWS** the Board to exceed the cap but no final decision has been reached as to whether we **WILL** exceed the cap.

The Board understands the importance of limiting budget increases and it is the Board's intention to comply with the tax cap by proposing a tax increase at or below the tax cap limit.

However, in times of economic uncertainty, we believe that the Library has an enhanced duty to the public to provide free material for educational and entertainment purposes. Therefore it may be necessary to exceed the cap so as not to cut services to the public nor to cut the operational hours of the Library.

Further, since the law has not been fully interpreted, the Board feels it prudent to allow leeway in order to avoid penalties incurred by technical violations of this new law.

The public will, of course, have the final say on the budget numbers which will be open, as always, to a final vote of the community. We encourage the public make their wishes known either by contacting the Library Trustees or at the ballot box on Election Day.

Contract Negotiations

The Board met with the Staff Association Negotiation Committee on Feb. 7, 2012. The outstanding issues remain unresolved. The Board has requested confirmation as to exactly who is represented by the Staff Association, as we have commenced action through P.E.R.B. to proceed to the Fact Finding stage of negotiations and await the issuance of a hearing date.

New Business

The Board reviewed the Timeline for the Budget Hearing and Vote. Emphasis was placed on the early submission of material for printing and distribution to local residents. The Director thanked her assistant, Victoria Christie, for all her efforts in organizing the voting process. The Board members will review the materials and send any questions to the Director.

Election Officials for the 2012 Vote:

The Board has designated the following:

Donald O'Brien to act as Chief Election Inspector

Elisa Paone as Permanent Chair Person

Robert Carrozzo as Alternate Permanent Chair Person

Motion by Heidi McNamara, seconded by Elisa Paone, to appoint Election Officials for the 2012 Vote.

Yes – McNamara, Paone, O'Brien, Carrozzo, Kesten

No – none

The Board has rejected the Proposal submitted by the Bowne AE & T Group for renovating the parking lot. The Director will look into other engineering firms.

The Board discussed the recent renovations made by Richmar to the HVAC system. The Director will follow up on Richmar suggestions.

Motion by Heidi McNamara, seconded Joanne Kesten by to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 pm.

Unanimously approved.

Next meeting scheduled for Monday, March 19, 2012 at 7pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Maggie Gough for Gail J. Neufeld

Secretary to the Board