

TENAFLY PUBLIC LIBRARY
MINUTES OF LIBRARY BOARD MEETING
February 8, 2010

The Board of Trustees of the Tenafly Public Library met on the above date at 7:30 p.m. at the Library for its regular monthly meeting.

Board Members Present: President Ellen Rochford, Vice President Kathleen Cook, Secretary/Treasurer Dr. Martin Gilbert, Mrs. Mabel Allen, Dr. Kenneth Altman and Councilman Patrick Rouse.

Staff Present: Library Director Stephen Wechtler, Assistant Director Soon Juhng and Administrative Assistant Ann Marie Connolly.

Board Members Absent: Mr. David DiGregorio, Dr. Everett Fergenson and Dr. Arthur Peck.

Mrs. Rochford called the meeting to order. Mr. Wechtler stated that notices of the meeting had been sent to local papers, Cablevision and were posted on the Library and Borough bulletin boards.

Board members approved the minutes of the Library Board meeting of January 11, 2010. Moved by: Mrs. Cook. Seconded by: Dr. Gilbert.

Dr. Martin Gilbert took the official oath of public office to begin his 5 year term as a Library Board of Trustees member.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Wechtler provided Board members with the Library's 2009 1/3 mil Account Summary. After discussion, they were pleased with the execution of the budget and were in agreement that due to the significant increase in circulation (18%), the major conversion of videocassettes to DVDs and the entire collection repackaged in a new more economical security system, the over expenditure in part time hours was warranted.

The Board also discussed the 2010 1/3 mil municipal budget submitted to the Mayor and Council by Library Director Stephen R. Wechtler, approved at the December 14, 2009 Board meeting and subsequently revised by the Interim Borough Administrator Gregory Fehrenbach and Chief Financial Officer, Eugene Vinci.

The 2010 1/3 mil budget is \$1,408,194. The Borough revision brings the Library's total operating cost to \$1,489,905 –\$81,711 over the 1/3 mil budget. This difference is due to costs never charged before from the Borough to the Library and includes \$57,405 for utilities and workman's compensation charges of \$26,099. Also charged were increases to pension, S. S. taxes and dental and life insurance. There was a reduction in the cost of payroll administration. Mr. Wechtler noted that the immediate impact of this deficit is a proposed \$81,000 reduction in the Library's book/media/publications budget which was originally calculated at \$182,000. This reduction will mean patrons will have less access to bestsellers, DVDs for children and adults, reference titles (both print and online), fiction, nonfiction, picture books, children's chapter books and books on CD.

He also provided the Board with suggestions on enhancing the Library's book/media purchasing power which included a \$5,000 gift from the Friends of the Library, using \$25,000 from the Library's general fund account and utilizing \$35,000 in surplus money from the Library's HVAC account. Due to the difference in the HVAC reserve fund (2007-2008) and the cost of the HVAC project, it is very likely that this money will be available for books. CFO Gene Vince confirms that the surplus funds from the HVAC reserve may be used for this purpose.

The Board expressed its concern and dissatisfaction with the proposed increase in the Library's operational costs and resulting steep reduction in the municipal support for books. A special meeting is scheduled on Monday, February 22 at 7:30 p.m. to discuss further the 2010 1/3 mil Municipal Library Budget.

Mr. Wechtler presented the proposed 2010 Library Expenses Budget of \$48,500 .to the Board. He stated that the Library anticipates earning a portion of this amount in 2010 through donations, fines, reimbursement for lost books, and interest. As a result of the reduction in the 1/3 mil Municipal Library Budget, he proposed withdrawing \$25,000 from the Library's general fund and adding this to the budget for book/media purchases. After discussion the follow resolution was approved:

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED THAT: The Board of Trustees of the Free Public Library of the Borough of Tenafly approves of the 2010 Library Expenses Budget as presented by the Library Director.

Moved by: Dr. Altman

Seconded by: Mrs. Rochford

Voting as follows:

Mrs. Allen – Abstain

Dr. Altman – Aye

Mrs. Cook – Aye

Dr. Gilbert – Aye

Mrs. Rochford – Aye

Councilman Rouse - Aye

A pre-construction meeting for the HVAC project was held on February 4 in the Library. Present were Heston Allocco, AMCO's Project Manager, Milton Azous, engineer for Innovative Engineering, Frank Mottola, Director of the Building Department, Joseph Rossi, Maintenance Foremen and Mr. Wechtler. It was agreed that Joe Rossi will be the key access person for AMCO and that daily work will begin at 7:00 a.m. Engineer Milton Azous will conduct site visits once a week at a half-day charge (\$475).

AMCO's performance schedule is expected this week. Actual in-building work will commence in March or April. Mr. Allocco expects the project to take four weeks. Although some disruption will occur when replacements are taking place, the Library will still have heat from baseboards. No closing is anticipated.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mrs. Cook suggested that the Tenafly Library follow the lead of several libraries in the area regarding the donation of food to local food banks. She also suggested that the book fair in April be used as the avenue for this charitable work. The Board was in agreement and the details will be forthcoming.

Mr. Wechtler reminded Board members that the bronze plaque honoring former Friends of the Library Secretary Lillian Panczner for her extremely generous bequest was mounted on the wall in the foyer.

Mr. Wechtler thanked members of the Library's Art Committee including Library Board member Mabel Allen for the outstanding exhibit of photographs by Peter Tilgner which will extend through March 30.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m. Moved by: Dr. Altman. Seconded by: Dr. Gilbert.

The next regular meeting of the Library Board of Trustees will be Monday, March 8, 2010 at the Library.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen R. Wechtler
Library Director

APPROVED: 03-08-10