

TENAFLY PUBLIC LIBRARY
MINUTES OF LIBRARY BOARD MEETING
February 9, 2009

The Board of Trustees of the Tenafly Public Library met on the above date at the Library for its regular monthly meeting.

Board Members Present: President Ellen Rochford, Vice President Kathleen Cook, Secretary/Treasurer Lynda Burke, Mrs. Mabel Allen, and Councilman Patrick Rouse.

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

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

Mrs. Rochford called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. 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 12, 2009. Moved by: Mrs. Cook. Seconded by: Mrs. Allen.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Wechtler read an e-mail from Terrie McColl of BCCLS that told the story of hero pilot Chesley “Sully” Sullenberger’s request to have an extension and waiver of overdue fees for the book he left in the cargo hold of the US Airways plane that he landed in the Hudson River. The librarians at his home library in Danville, CA were struck by his sense of responsibility and did him one better: they are waiving all fees and dedicating the book Professional Ethics to him.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Mr. Wechtler presented the proposed 2009 Library Expenses Budget of \$33,275.to the Board. He stated that the Library anticipates earning this amount or more in 2009 through donations, fines, reimbursement for lost books, and interest. 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 2009 Library Expenses Budget as presented by the Library Director.

Moved by: Councilman Rouse

Seconded by: Mrs. Cook

Voting as follows:

Mrs. Allen – Aye

Mrs. Rochford – Aye

Ms. Burke – Aye

Councilman Rouse – Aye

Mrs. Cook – Aye

Mr. Wechtler updated the Board on the New Jersey League of Municipalities resolution for the reduction in minimum funding for libraries from 1/3 to 1/6 of a mil – a 50% reduction in minimum funding level. BCCLS has an urgent message on its website informing the public of the proposed reduction in library financing.

Mr. Wechtler provided a copy of an article from the front page of The Wall Street Journal of January 15, 2009 that reported that libraries are reporting big jumps in attendance over last year as newly unemployed people flock to libraries to work on resumes and scan the Internet for job information and listings. Also, recession weary patrons are turning to libraries for entertainment –with their free computers, Wi-Fi, video resources and, of course, books. The article mentioned that some libraries are cutting their hours, reducing staff or even being closed altogether because of budget problems.

The Booksale dates are Friday, April 17 through Sunday, April 19. The public may begin to bring in their donations at the beginning of the sale setup up at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, April 14.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Frank Mottola, Director of the Department of Buildings, informed Mr. Wechtler (1/13/09) that OMDEX and Linwood Engineering are reviewing the information provided by Paul Riccobono of CCS regarding

the development of a bid specification for HVAC renovation. OMDEX Engineering has provided detailed specifications for the library HVAC renovation project. We are expecting Linwood Engineering to inspect conditions and submit a service proposal. We are waiting to hear from Barone engineering.

The Board discussed the Spring 2009 Library programs scheduled by Mr. Wechtler. Mrs. Rochford and other Board members thanked him for the many diverse and interesting programs being offered through June 2009.

Mr. Wechtler reported that staff and patrons are extremely pleased with the quality and design of the work Wood Artisans did in the Children's Room. Everyone appreciates the increased shelving space.

There was also a discussion of library personnel benefit costs including pension, social security and health insurance that are included in the Library budget.

The meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m. Moved by: Councilman Rouse. Seconded by: Mrs. Rochford.

The next regular meeting of the Library Board of Trustees will be **Monday, March 9, 2009** at the Library.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen R. Wechtler
Library Director

APPROVED: March 9, 2009