

Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Free Public Library of the Borough of Longport
July 20th, 2020 at 5:00pm

Call to Order: President Roy Law called the meeting to order at 5:00pm

The meeting attendees participated in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Announcement of Compliance with Open Public Meetings Law: This meeting is called pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Law. Notice of this meeting was advertised in the Press of Atlantic City on July 17, 2020 and sent to the Current on July 15th, 2020. Notice of this meeting was also posted on the Library's website and in Longport Borough Hall. Official Action may be taken at this meeting.

Recording of Attendance: President Roy Law, Secretary Elizabeth Peterson-Ricci, Member Dolores Wilson, Member Erin Schiavo, Member Damen Tomassi, Mayor Nick Russo, President of Board of Education Carl Tripician, Treasurer Patricia English (arrived after roll call at 5:02pm), President of the Board of Education, and Library Director Ricky Gerhardt in attendance.

Absent: Member Joanne Clayton

Old Business: Approval of minutes from June 22nd, 2020. Erin Schiavo motioned for approval of minutes, Dolores Wilson seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed.

Public Comment: There was no public comment

New Business:

President's Report: Roy Law, Board President remarked that the library continues to be ahead of the curve in comparison to most local libraries. The Downbeach.com and Current had articles and postings about the services and programs at the library. Roy Law asked that Board Members continue to remind other patrons of our services and how we've altered things to comply with Public Health recommendations etc.

The President also reminded the board to have our financial statements submitted to the state by July 31st, the extended deadline.

Treasurer's Report:

Patricia English, treasurer, reported on the Library Finances for the last month.

She indicated that we have \$343,052.04 as a beginning balance. She reported cash receipts in the amount of \$166,785.70. She reported a cash disbursed amount as \$17,123.62. The ending cash balance was \$492,714.12

Dolores Wilson motioned to accept the treasurer's report, Elizabeth Peterson-Ricci seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed.

Bill Pay List: The bill pay list was reviewed and presented by Patricia English, treasurer. She indicated that all looked good from her review of the bills and there were no questions presented by other meeting attendees. Ricky Gerhardt, Library Director, clarified that we've had a subscription to Ancestry.com for a while and that line item was a yearly renewal. Erin Schiavo motioned to approve the bill list, Dolores Wilson seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed.

Director's Report:

Ricky Gerhardt, Library Director previously distributed a detailed report in preparation for the meeting. There were no questions from the board in regards to that report. Ricky Gerhardt added some remarks about ongoing happenings at the library. The library website traffic was REALLY high (almost double) last month. Ricky also reminded us that due to the COVID-19 pandemic the acquisition of materials has been challenging. However, the backlog in the warehouses of our suppliers is getting better. Ricky also updated us on our potential merge with the Historical Society of Longport. He reports that the Historical Society board has reviewed the memorandum of understanding, and the next step is to send that memorandum to our attorney who will then send it back to them. At that time, we can then draft a resolution to complete the merger and we are hopeful to have a resolution in place to do so by October, 2020. Ricky also indicated that the library did not receive the AARP grant we applied to receive. The State grant money we would use for a library capital improvement renovation is still up in the air and we may know the status in September. Ricky indicated he isn't terribly optimistic due to the pandemic and the financial uproar it has caused in state financials.

Mayor Nick Russo talked about the steps the Borough has been taking in dealing with Covid 19 in the municipal building. Ricky added to that by saying he continues to monitor the CDC recommendations as well as has been in contact with the Atlantic County Health Department regarding their recommendations.

Resolution 2020-11 A RESOLUTION APPROVING AN UPDATED POLICY IN RESPONSE TO A PUBLIC HEALTH PANDEMIC:

This resolution sets the policy that ensures that our patronage continue to feel confident in visiting our library. It lists the updated precautions our library director will take in accordance to guidance from health professionals in regards to a pandemic.

Dolores Wilson motioned to accept the resolution. Patricia English and Erin Schiavo simultaneously seconded the motion, all in favor none opposed.

Public Comment:

Elizabeth Peterson-Ricci announced her intention to resign her post as a board member and Secretary of the Board of Trustees. She indicated a move to Baltimore Maryland, a new job and relocating in the midst of a pandemic as her reasons for her resignation.

Adjournment: Patricia English motioned to adjourn the meeting at 5:32pm, Nick Russo seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed.