

LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, January 23, 2019

This meeting was videotaped.

President Nick Ciampi called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

It was noted that the meeting was being held in compliance with the **Open Public Meetings Act**.

Roll Call:

John Clyde	<i>ill</i>	Nicholas Ciampa	<i>present</i>	Nabil Choueiri (NBC)	<i>absent</i>
Iris Kislin	<i>present</i>	Mayor Kramer	<i>present</i>	Edward Ward	<i>absent</i>
Tom Lennon	<i>absent</i>	Agnes Kulu-Banya	<i>present</i>		
January Adams	<i>present</i>				

Mayor Kramer motioned to extend the current slate of officers for another month. Iris seconded and all were in favor.

The meeting was opened for public comment. There being no comments, the meeting was closed to public comment.

Agnes motioned to accept the minutes from the December 12 meeting. Mayor Kramer seconded. Agnes, Mayor Kramer and Nick were in favor. Iris abstained.

Director's Report:

January presented the financial reports of the **Director's report** for the month of December. The financial reports were filed for audit.

January highlighted various aspects of the narrative section of her monthly report. She noted that:

- One thousand four hundred and fifty-six people attended 88 programs held at the library and the branch during the last month. Of particular note were the Holiday Magic Show and The Russian Trio concert.
- The library's winter reading programs started in January. The Family (a.k.a. children's) program began on January 15 with a Dance Party program and the adult and teen began on January 22.
- The AARP Foundation Tax-Aide will once again provide free, in-person tax preparations for individuals at the library during February, March and April. The program is open to taxpayers of all ages, but is by appointment only. The contact number for appointments is 908-541-5710 and should be operational around February 1.

President's Report:

Nick distributed an informational sheet that he had prepared on the 2018 municipal funding for public libraries. These statistics indicate that if Franklin township were to join the Somerset County Library System, taxpayers would pay approximately \$1,970,000 **more** per year for library services – an increase of 61%. The Franklin Township Public Library is able to operate a main library and a branch with only the state minimum funding of a third of a mill.

Correspondence and communications:

None

Old Business:

The Mayor stated that as of this date the total costs for the Lewis Street Youth Center are not known. When asked, he replied that the project would probably be bonded. He added that the council would be voting at its next meeting to purchase properties across the street from the center and create approximately 40 – 50 additional parking spaces. The total cost will be \$605,000.

Concerning the library's proposal to obtain land from the Board of Education for a new southern branch, the board learned that the Mayor had spoken to Superintendent of Schools Ravally who was amenable to meeting with a sub-quorum of members of the library board. Nick, Mayor Kramer, and Agnes will attend this meeting on February 4 at 6:30. January will also attend.

New Business:

January informed the board that the HVAC contractor who currently maintains the two HVAC units at the Franklin Park branch had recommended replacing both units, as they were very old and deteriorating. Although both units are operational, the branch only uses one unit for its needs. After a discussion of the costs to replace the units and the board's plans for the southern branch, the group decided that January should continue with her plan to obtain three quotations for replacement of one or both units to have them on hand in case one of the units failed. No unit would be replaced until that time.

Mayor Kramer motioned to authorize January to open a six-month CD for one million dollars at the best current rate or a negotiated higher rate and to complete the transaction without further approval from the board. Iris seconded.

Roll Call vote:

Nicholas Ciampa *yes* Iris Kislin *yes* Agnes Kulu-Banya *yes* Mayor Kramer *yes*

The meeting was opened again for public comment. There being no comments, the meeting was closed to public comment.

The next meeting will be February 27, 2019.

Iris motioned to adjourn the meeting and Mayor Kramer seconded. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

January Adams
Director of Library Services