

**FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY OF MONROE TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Regularly Scheduled November 2024

A. Call to Order:

The November Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Free Public Library of Monroe Township was called to order at 7:00pm by President Joan Betterly followed by the Pledge of Alligence. Those present: Joyce Samoyan, Jeanne Kirsch, Suzanne King, John Pohler, Allison Munch, Samantha Snyder and President Joan Betterly. President Joan Betterly confirmed that tonight's meeting was being held in Compliance with the Open to the Public Meetings Act.

B. Public Portion (Open/Close):

President Joan Betterly opened the public portion of the meeting. Melissa Newton, from the Library staff attended the meeting to represent the Library Staff.

Melissa introduced herself to the Board and stated she was representing the circ department staff as well as the rest of the Library staff asking the Board to provide a cost of living raise. Melissa continued with comparing other Library's in the area to Monroe salary increases are. Melissa stated to the Board that she knows the Board always has our back and she was hoping they would help Sam and Karen to provide the staff with raises.

John Pohler and Joyce Samoyan, former employees of the Township, told Melissa she would be best to have more information and go to the Township with her salary increases since the Library staff works for the Township. They also suggested she look into a union and not compare oranges to apples. Joyce continued to interrupt Melissa every time she said she had more information with her so she was unable to present it. Both John and Joyce continued to say "it was not the Library Board's job to go to the Township for any kind of money issues at the Library" Joan Betterly continued to use her gavel at this point to interject, stating we have to move on with the meeting. Joan closed the Public Portion.

C. Approve Minutes November 2024: Motion to approve October Minutes was made by Suzanne King, seconded by John Pohler. All voted in favor.

D. Approve November 2024 Financial Reports: Off the record while the Board reviewed the financial reports. Back on record. Suzanne King made a motion to approve November financial reports, seconded by Jeanne Kirsch. All voted in favor.

E: Approve Payment of November Vouchers: A motion was made by John Pohler to approve payment of November Vouchers, seconded by Joyce Samoyan. All voted in favor.

F: Directors Report:

Technology:

Samantha reported, I have taken great joy in throwing away the “radio controlled” clock that was formerly located in the Circulation Department, I have replaced it with a normal clock that doesn’t need to” face Colorado” to reset to the proper time during daylight savings time.

Samantha reported, things are pretty quiet technology-wise, the last batch of computers that needs replacing is in the Children’s area. Samantha reported, some of the staff computers are getting older as well, which maybe next year Bellia Tech can look into getting some upgrades.

Building:

Samantha reported, sometime last week a New Jersey State Flag finally appeared. Samantha reported, Buildings & Grounds were finally able to fix the fence in the Children’s Garden on November 12th, now that the flowers are done blooming attracting bees.

Events:

Samantha reported, the Elections took place and almost killed me, thankfully the Mayor came here to vote on Monday and put a stop to some of the super craziness that was going on. Samantha reported, the people coming to vote were on their best behavior, which is different. Samantha reported, the Friends wrap and the Rotary’s Pictures with Santa are taking place on Saturday, December 7th. in rooms A & B.

Tibits:

Samantha reported, as mentioned in the last meeting the Friends are looking to purchase a new couch in honor of Terry, on Tuesday at 11:00am Bellia Furniture is coming to take a look at our Children's couch and see if we can find a suitable replacement.

Notes:

Samantha reported, a lot of my report will be covered more specifically under "New Business" so this report is short and sweet.

G: Committee Reports:

Garden:

John reported, everything is dead in the garden and will pick in the spring. John reported he is looking to replace a plant in the inside which is dying no matter what he does to care for it.

Personal Committee:

No Report.

Policy/By Laws:

No Report.

Buildings & Grounds:

No Report.

Friends

Suzanne reported, we had contributions made in Terry's name from about seven people and collected \$575.00. Suzanne reported, the Friends spring book sale will be on April 26th 2025, and they will be having their Christmas wrap on Saturday 12/7/2024. Suzanne reported, The Giver's Place asked her if the Friends would like to help giving out Thanksgiving Baskets.

H. Old Business:

No Old Business to report.

I: New Business:

Approval of pay raises and bonus.

The Board discussed the fact that the Board is responsible to determine the percentage of a pay raise for the Library staff before the new year and also any bonus at Christmas time. The Board decided the raises percentage would be determined by the amount the Library receives from the Township as well as the Library Budget.

John Pohler made a motion to give the Library staff a bonus of \$400.00 for 2024, Suzanne King seconded. All voted in favor.

The Board discussed and decided to have a pay raise amount by November for the following new year.

Susanne King made a motion to increase the Library staff salary at the rate of 4% for 2025, John Pohler seconded. All voted in favor.

Volunteer Tea, Joan reported that the Volunteer Tea will be Friday 12/13/24 at 10:00am.

Remembrance Wall, Joan reported, she would like pictures of the Library, she has asked the Historical Society to find them so far they have not found any, and the plaques of former Board Members be hung together in Meeting Room B.

John Pohler made a motion to have the plaques of former Board Members and pictures of the Library be hung together in Meeting Room B, Suzanne King seconded, All voted in favor.

Voting in the Library, Joan reported, she would like the voting taking place in the Library to be discontinued because of the harassment from the candidates to the Library staff as well as the voters. They had a bull horn, their signs were in the staff parking lot the disruption of a children's Halloween Program, which is not allowed but continued to happen especially the days the Library was closed.

Joan reported, she intends to have a meeting with Jim DeHart to discuss having voting removed from the Library because of the above reasons.

I: Adjournment:

Joyce Samoyan made a motion to adjourn at 8:20pm, Jeanne Kirsch seconded.
All voted in favor.

Respectfully Submitted
Karen Uhl Transcriber

Joan Betterly President
Board of Trustees