

**NEW ROCHELLE PUBLIC LIBRARY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES  
Thursday March 12, 2015**

Haina Just-Michael, Board President, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS

Haina Just-Michael, President  
Emery Schweig Vice President  
George Walters, Secretary (excused)  
Gregory T. Varian  
Quentin J. Jacobs  
Charles Burke, Jr.  
Damon Maher

ADMINISTRATION

Thomas Geoffino  
Jean Manning  
Mary Kane Pasacreta

WLS REPRESENTATIVE

LaRuth Gray (excused)

**BUDGET COMMITTEE:**

Committee Chair Emery Schweig presented the proposed FY2015/16 Library budget as recommended by the Budget Committee. The amount is \$5,240,408.47 – this represents an increase of 7.42% over the current budget. This increase would be mitigated by use of \$150,000 in Fund Balance monies thus bringing the tax levy increase down to 4.35%. Such an increase constitutes an overage above the assigned tax cap amount for our library. Emery reported that the proposed budget increase is tied to personnel and fringe benefit increases as well as enhancements to security, physical plant cleaning maintenance, technology and collection development. All these areas are integral components in our Draft Long Range Plan and further our “blueprint” for future library activity. More discussion ensued with respect to the dollar amount that the proposed budget exceeded the amount allowed under the tax cap, “the overage”. The Board then discussed potential options to lessen or eliminate the overage, including utilizing the Fund Balance or reducing the services. The decision was made to utilize the Fund Balance to lessen the overage. However, given upcoming necessary capital expenditures, clearly expressed concerns of the community and the goals of the long range plan, it was decided to submit a budget in excess of the tax cap.

Emery Schweig moved to accept the proposed FY2015/16 budget as recommended by the Budget Committee, seconded by Chuck Burke and approved.

**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING:**

The February 12, 2015 meeting minutes were reviewed by the Trustees. Chuck Burke moved that the minutes be approved as amended, seconded by Emery Schweig and approved.

**FINANCE, TREASURY AUDIT COMMITTEE:**

Committee Chair Greg Varian indicated that the Finance Committee met frequently in the previous 6 weeks to consider the matter of the financing for the replacement of the failing Chiller unit. The cost

estimate for such a project is \$750,000 was initially made by WASA and subsequently confirmed by 2 independent parties. Compounding the difficulty in making such a decision is the issue of the proposed RDRXR project and the potential inclusion of the library in this initiative. The Committee was unable to make a formal recommendation relative to this matter but informal consensus was that the Library should place a \$500,000 bond resolution on the ballot relative to the upcoming May 19<sup>th</sup> election and fund the remaining \$250,000 through a combination of fund balance use and grants. Much discussion ensued.

Emery Schweig moved that:

*“BOND RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE REPAIR/REPLACEMENT OF THE NEW ROCHELLE PUBLIC LIBRARY’S COOLING SYSTEM; AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE BY THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF AN AMOUNT NOT EXCEEDING \$500,000 BOND (25-YEAR MAXIMUM MATURITY); PROVIDING FOR A TAX LEVY THEREFOR IN ANNUAL INSTALLMENTS: AND PLEDGING THE DISTRICT’S FAITH AND CREDIT FOR DEBT SERVICE”, be approved*

Seconded by Chuck Burke and approved.

#### PROJECT MANAGER REPORT:

Roxanne Neilson, Project Manager, did not attend the meeting but her previously forwarded written report was shared with Board members.

#### WLS REPORT:

No report was given as LaRuth Gray was unable to attend.

#### EXPENDITURES:

Vouchers previously reviewed by various Board members were found to be in order and co-signed appropriately. Board approved payment of the following vouchers:

<u>January Vouchers</u>	
Bond – Capital	\$2,560
Health Care	\$43,965.56
Gifts and Donations	\$1,260
Contractual	\$23,696.49
Various	\$2,680.63
Materials	\$16,590.58
Unemployment	\$5.02
Petty Cash	\$298.46

#### FINANCIAL REPORT:

No report was given due to the brevity of the meeting in relation to the RDRXR Crowdsourcing Meeting scheduled to start at 7:30 pm

#### PRESIDENTS REPORT:

No report was given due to the brevity of the meeting in relation to the RDRXR Crowdsourcing Meeting scheduled to start at 7:30 pm.

#### DIRECTOR’S REPORT:

Tom Geoffino presented an abbreviated report specific to the series of teen room disturbances the week of March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Misbehaving teens resulted in a number of police visits – no arrests were made but the tone of these events was disquieting to library staff. Accordingly, meetings were scheduled with School district personnel as well as the City Manager and Police Commissioner in order to devise solutions to mitigate rowdy teen behavior.

**PERSONNEL REPORT:**

Greg Varian moved that upon the recommendation of the Director, the Board of Trustees does hereby approve the appointment of Library Page Beatriz Alvarez effective February 19, 2015 at a salary of \$8.75 per hour seconded by Emery Schweig and approved.

Greg Varian moved that upon the recommendation of the Director, the Board of Trustees does hereby approve the appointment of Library Page Leena Varghese effective March 10, 2015 at a salary of \$8.75 per hour seconded by Emery Schweig and approved.

Greg Varian moved that upon the recommendation of the Director, the Board of Trustees does hereby approve the appointment of Library Clerk Lenor Bracamante effective February 23, 2015 at a salary of \$17.42 per hour seconded by Emery Schweig and approved.

Greg Varian moved that upon the recommendation of the Director, the Board of Trustees does hereby approve the departure of Library Page Aneesa Raja effective March 6, 2015 at a salary of \$9.19 per hour seconded by Emery Schweig and approved.

Greg Varian moved that upon the recommendation of the Director, the Board of Trustees does hereby approve the salary increase of Office Assistant Yesika Torres effective March 12, 2015 at a salary of \$21.83 per hour seconded by Emery Schweig and approved.

**PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:**

No report was made.

**BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE:**

No report was made.

**COMMUNITY RELATIONS, FOUNDATION, FRIENDS AND HUGUENOT PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE**

No report was made.

**POLICY COMMITTEE:**

No report was made.

**SPECIAL PROJECTS:**

No report was made.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

George Walters,

Secretary