

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
CRANBURY PUBLIC LIBRARY**

Minutes of the Meeting

Tuesday, March 23, 2010, 5:30 P.M.
Gambino Meeting Room, Cranbury Public Library

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT – 5:32 p.m.

2. INTRODUCTION OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Kirstie S. Venanzi, President
Hal Rourke, Vice-President
Kim Borden, Secretary (excused)
Patricia Thomsson, Treasurer
Julie Hardaker, Chief School Administrator's
and Friends of CPL's Representative
Pamela Parseghian, Mayor's Representative
Andre Mento
Charlene Vivian-Granville
David A. Fletcher (excused)

Also attended

Marilynn Mullen, Director
Douglas Baldwin, Systems Administrator

Dave Cook, Township Committee

3. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion of Governor Christie's FY2011 budget and the funding cuts for NJ Libraries.

The proposed cuts would represent a 74% support decrease in a budget that has remained flat over the past 20 years. Marilynn and staff evaluated what areas would affect our community the most:

- 1). Interlibrary loan system would affect both the public and school libraries. Thousands of \$\$. Our library would be affected starting July 1, 2010.
- 2). NJ State Library sponsored databases -90% of what we offer would affect both the public and school libraries. To replace the ones that they offer would be \$46,986.00. Our library would be affected starting July 1, 2010.
- 3). Summer reading program – themed program and materials. Savings in money and staff time. Our library would be affected summer 2011.
- 4). Per capita state aid – we use our aid to buy periodicals - \$2991.00, This would be half of what we had expected. We would be effected starting in November 2010.
- 5). Regional buying cooperative. Unsure of impact. Hundreds of \$s
- 6). Talking Book and Braille Center services, a difficult loss for our residents coping with visual or auditory challenges. Hundreds of \$s.
- 7). JerseyConnect, the NJ State Library cannot accept the \$7.5 million dollars of federal stimulus money if awarded by NTIA to give our library computers, training and increased broadband.

The board discussed the financial situation in New Jersey and understands that some cuts may be necessary, but are worried that libraries are being unfairly targeted. The board will study the monetary effect that this will have on our budget as we try and replace services. In light of these pending cuts and our lower appropriation, Kirstie mentioned to Dave that it was unlikely that the public library would have unneeded funds to give to the town.

B. Discussion of NJ Assembly Bill A2555 concerning the funding of municipal libraries. The bill would eliminate required minimum 1/3 of mill funding of libraries and allow the township

committee to set the monetary support. Sponsor: John DiMaio and co-sponsor Michael Patrick Carroll. The bill has been referred to Assembly Housing and Local Government Committee on 3/16/10. The board feels that this would be devastating to the municipal libraries in New Jersey and would cause many to close. The current funding law has been in place for 100 years assuring minimum financial support outside the political arena.

C. The board unanimously passed Resolution 2010-4 in support of preserving dedicated library funding for municipal public libraries and the NJ Library Network. We will send/present this to government officials.

D. Board determined that we need to inform Cranbury residents about our funding situation. The staff had come up with several ideas including bookmarks, website, and postcard campaign. This will continue to evolve.

4. ADJOURNMENT -6:50 p.m.

KSV 4/6/10