

Minutes from Board of Library Trustees Meeting – April 15, 2010

Present: Pat Fuller, Bill Heuer, Laraine Worby, Cathy Soucy, Jim Pond, Nancy Baron and Library Director Leslie McDonnell

Minutes: Minutes from March 31 to be addressed at next meeting.

Discussion of Budget FY '11 and possible override: The Trustees met in advance of the Selectmen's Tuesday April 20 meeting to determine what alterations, if any, were to be made to the Library's budget submission, and in what form, if any, the Library would participate in an override attempt.

Several budget scenarios were discussed:

\$407,756 – budget set at .75 cut level – This would fund the Children's Librarian position at 20hr/wk (a reduction of 4hr/wk) until November. Does not meet the MAR. Children's Librarian position eliminated after November.

\$429,478 – budget to maintain Children's Librarian position at current level all year – This would involve an override request of approximately \$21,000, librarian's salary plus required companion increase of 16% in book budget. Does not meet the MAR.

\$438,000 – approximate budget to keep Children's Librarian position and meet MAR – This would require an override of approximately \$31,000. Includes the required 16% increase for books and might allow for a slight extension of Saturday hours.

Bill advocated that the Library try to go to Town Meeting with an override proposal separate from that of the schools. Trustees discussed the merits of the \$407K and \$429K budgets as well as the likelihood of the Library being allowed to ask for a separate override. As a mid-year cut is likely opinion gradually moved toward the larger option, allowing for a very slight cushion against such a reduction.

Bill moved that we inform FinCom that our preference is for an independent override of \$21,000 to maintain the Children's Librarian position as it is, at 24 hr/wk year round. Laraine seconds. All in favor.

Bill further moved that if the Library is to be bundled into a single override then we request an override of \$31,000 to meet the MAR and retain the Children's Librarian position as it currently is. Laraine seconds. All in favor.

Bill agreed to speak with Mark Schultz and explain our position.

Election season ethics – Leslie expressed concern about staff involving themselves in the override process during work hours. She drafted an explainer for the staff that she will post on the library blog. It outlines the prohibition of municipal workers involvement in campaigns during work time or with work resources and also the rights of those workers who are also local citizens to engage in such activities so long as they do not do so as a representative of the library. Trustees agree.

Draft letter to Joan Levinsohn – Trustees discussed the wording of a letter to patron Joan Levinsohn, which reminds her of appropriate behavior standards in the library. Leslie will re-type for Trustees signatures.

Pat motioned for adjournment. Laraine seconds. Adjournment at 8:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Baron