

**Rutherford Public Library Board of Trustees
Minutes for May 19, 2010 Meeting**

Open Meeting

1. Roll Call

Trustees Present	Mr. Tom Bryant Ms. Brenda Fargo Ms. Nan Giblin Ms. Janice Glock Mayor John Hipp Ms. Ann Wilson
Trustees Absent	Mr. Gerry Grenier Ms. Pat Wester
Staff Present	Director, Ms. Jane Fisher Assistant Director, Ms. Joan Velez
Others Present	Citizens and Library Staff
Call to Order	The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Nan Giblin

2. Provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act

Ms. Glock read the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act.

3. Hearing of Citizens

Susan Rappaport, the Young Adult Librarian since 2003, addressed the group to detail her resume and accomplishments. Her background includes experience at the NYPL, American Museum of Natural History, and large corporations. When she arrived at RPL, systems were manual and there were no outreach programs. She updated the collections, instituted teacher training and designed teen programming. She feels a teen advocate is needed and the position is essential to the Library.

Diane Jones questioned Mayor Hipp regarding a comment he made with respect to the Council refusing to act on Borough layoffs requested last year. Hipp explained his failed effort to impose a 13% reduction on all departments last year. He also explained the cap on property taxes. Ms. Jones also wondered if the Merrill Lynch endowment could be used to avoid personnel cuts. Hipp explained the danger of cutting into the endowment's principal.

4. Correspondence

Sue Misiewicz's resignation will be effective July 1, 2010 instead of June 30, 2010.

5. President's Report

A. Agenda

Motion: *To approved the revised agenda as requested by Nan Giblin*
Moved: Glock; Seconded: Wilson
For: Bryant, Fargo, Giblin, Glock, Hipp, Wilson

B. Approval of the Minutes

Motion: *To approve the minutes of the April 21, 2010 Regular Meeting*
Moved: Hipp; Seconded: Wilson
For: Bryant, Fargo, Giblin, Glock, Hipp, Wilson

C. President's Report

Ms. Giblin noted that the Finance Committee meeting was difficult due to anticipated budget cuts. The positive news is that citizens and staff are making efforts to contact authorities with their concerns and should continue to do so. We need to work together and communicate as best as we can.

6. New Business

Trustees received the layoff plan in their packet. It includes a 6-week furlough for all staff. Four full-time employees will be moving to part-time status and losing their medical benefits. One current part-time worker will also lose benefits. Three of our full-time employees will retire, including Joan Velez.

7. Director's Report

Ms. Fisher reported the resignation of Christine Clisura who has been with the Library as a Reference Intern. She would like to fill the position, but without taking hours away from existing staff.

The Thursday evening book discussion group has lost their meeting place since hours were cut. On May 20th they will meet outside as a demonstration of their concern. They will wear specially made T-shirts showing their support of the Library. There may be newspapers covering the group. Other media have been here as part of the general coverage of library cuts across the state.

8. Committee Reports

A. Finance

Motion: *To approve payment of bills enclosed in packet*
Moved: Wilson; Seconded: Glock
For: Bryant, Fargo, Giblin, Glock, Hipp, Wilson

Ms. Giblin reported that Chase bank is no longer handling institutional accounts. The committee is reviewing other banks.

B. Personnel

Motion: *To approve the layoff plan prepared by Jane Fisher (included in the packet) be sent to the Department of Civil Service*
Moved: Wilson; Seconded: Glock.

Discussion: Mayor Hipp noted that those who lose benefits are eligible for Cobra. The US Government will pay 65% of the cost and the employee will pay 35%. In contrast, the Borough's part-time employees are not losing their benefits. Ms. Giblin pointed out the perception of unfairness that this causes. Mr. Bryant wondered if we can modify the plan after it is submitted if circumstances change. Mayor Hipp said that we have 120 days to implement the plan. We could opt not to implement it and would not need approval for that from the Civil Service Commission.

For: Bryant, Fargo, Giblin, Glock, Wilson
Abstain: Hipp

9. Other Reports

A. Mayor

Mayor Hipp reported that the Borough Budget will not be passed on May 25. The Local Finance Board hasn't certified the introduced budget. A Public Hearing on the budget will be held on May 25th. He expressed concern that faulty assumptions in the budget will delay approval.

B. Friends of the Library

On Friday, June 4, the Friends will hold a reprise of the performance of "Polytopics," originally performed at the William Carlos Williams Poetry Symposium in 2009. Tickets are \$10.

10. Unfinished Business

None.

11. Executive Closed Session

WHEREAS, the "Open Public Meetings Act" requires that a public body adopt a resolution at an open meeting before going into closed session to discuss a matter which excludes the public as permitted under Section 7b;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Library Board of Trustees will hold a closed meeting on Wednesday, May 19, 2010 at 7:47 PM in the auditorium to discuss personnel issues.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the outcome of this discussion will be disclosed to the public when there is no further need for confidentiality.

Motion: *To go into Closed Session*

Moved: Glock; Seconded: Wilson

For: Bryant, Fargo, Giblin, Glock, Hipp, Wilson

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

The return to Open Session was at 8:35 PM

12. Adjournment

Motion: *To adjourn the meeting.*

Moved: Hipp; Seconded: Glock

For: Bryant, Fargo, Giblin, Glock, Hipp, Wilson

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:38 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Nan Giblin
Vice President