

Wantagh Public Library
Board of Trustees Business Meeting Minutes
February 22, 2021

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Wantagh Public Library was held on Monday, February 22, 2021. Trustees Margaret Kowalski, Laura Dupkin Memisha, Gianna Gelci-Steen, Barbara Brochstein and Kurt Faraczek were present.

Also present were Board Treasurer Lou Ann Nguyen, Library Director Shannon Marchese, and Custodian Joe Marion.

Board President Margaret Kowalski called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The Board proceeded with the agenda.

Gianna Gelci-Steen made a motion to approve the Minutes of the January 25, 2021 Board Meeting and the revised Minutes of the Special meeting held on June 30, 2020 as printed. Barbara Brochstein seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Gianna Gelci-Steen made a motion to approve the following warrants:

- Payroll Warrant #29 dated 1/28/2021 in the amount of \$36,430.24
- Payroll Warrant #30 dated 02/11/2021 in the amount of \$31,019.08
- Expense Warrant #31 dated 02/08/2021 in the amount of \$41,047.70
- Expense Warrant #32 dated 02/12/2021 in the amount of \$81,120.58

Barbara Brochstein seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Gianna Gelci-Steen made a motion to approve the following payroll periods:

- Payroll Period #5 for pay date 03/11/2021
- Payroll Period #6 for pay date 03/25/2021
- Each in an amount not to exceed \$60,000.00.

Laura Dupkin Memisha seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Board Treasurer Lou Ann Nguyen reviewed the January 2021 Treasurer's Report with the Trustees

Barbara Brochstein made a motion to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Wantagh Public Library, as required by law, has developed a plan for the continuation of operations in the event of a declared public health emergency involving a communicable disease (the "Plan"); and

WHEREAS, a copy of the Plan was provided to the duly recognized representative of the Library's employees (the "Representative"), and such Representative was given an opportunity to review the Plan and make recommendations thereon; and

WHEREAS, the Representative provided no recommendations and has provided confirmation that there were no objections to the Plan as developed by the Library,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Wantagh Public Library hereby approves and adopts the Plan effective April 1, 2021; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Library Director shall publish the Plan in a clear

and conspicuous location in the Library, in the employee handbook to the extent one is provided to employees and on the Library's website or on the internet accessible by employees.

Gianna Gelci-Steen seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Laura Dupkin Memisha made a motion to approve the one-year service renewal for NABCO Entrances for the automatic door maintenance in the amount of \$2,200.00. Permission was given to the Library Director to sign the contract.

Kurt Faraczek seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Laura Dupkin Memisha made a motion to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Wantagh Public Library adopts the budget for the fiscal year 2021-2022 in the amount of \$2,765,840.00, and be the same hereby is approved and of that amount the sum of \$2,735,840.00 to be raised by a tax upon the taxable property within the Wantagh School District.

Barbara Brochstein seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Trustees Laura Dupkin Memisha and Kurt Faraczek left the meeting at 8:45pm

Barbara Brochstein made the following motion at 8:46pm:

MOVED, that the Board of Trustees convene in a quasi-judicial forum and to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing current litigation involving an appeal from a suspension of Library privileges and the Findings and Recommendation of the Board-appointed hearing officer in connection with such appeal.

Gianna Gelci-Steen seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Barbara Brochstein made a motion to leave the Executive Session at 8:54pm.

Gianna Gelci-Steen seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Barbara Brochstein made a motion to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Wantagh Public Library maintains a Policy for Use of Library Facilities, which, in part, describes permissible and prohibited conduct in the Library (the "Policy"); and

WHEREAS, the Policy provides for the suspension of Library privileges in the case of violations of the terms of the Policy; and

WHEREAS, a suspension was imposed on the individual named in Confidential Attachment "A" based on several reported violations of the Policy; and

WHEREAS, the Policy allows for an appeal of a suspension, and the individual named in Confidential Attachment "A" requested such an appeal; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Policy, the Board of Trustees of the Wantagh Public Library

designated Arthur Riegel, Esq. to serve as the hearing officer in the appeal and to make findings of fact and recommendations to the Board; and

WHEREAS, after written notice to all parties, a hearing was held before the hearing officer on February 5 and February 11, 2021 at which documentary and testimonial evidence was presented; and

WHEREAS, the hearing officer issued his Findings and Recommendation dated February 18, 2021 containing a recitation of the evidence, a discussion and his findings of fact and recommendations, which has been received by the Board; and

WHEREAS, the Board met on February 22, 2021 and convened an executive session at which the matter was considered and the hearing officer's Findings and Recommendation were discussed; and

WHEREAS, based on their roles in connection with this matter, Trustee Dupkin Memisha and Trustee Faraczek were excluded from that portion of such executive session at which this matter and the Findings and Recommendation were discussed, and they took no part in such discussions or in the subsequent vote on this matter; and WHEREAS, the hearing officer recommends that the appeal should be denied,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Wantagh Public Library, after due review, discussion and consideration of this matter, hereby accepts and adopts the hearing officer's Findings and Recommendation dated February 18, 2021 in connection with the suspension of Library privileges of the person named in Confidential Attachment "A"; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the appeal is hereby denied and Board authorizes the Library Director or her designee to take all necessary and appropriate steps to implement and enforce the suspension through June 20, 2021.

Gianna Gelci-Steen seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Barbara Brochstein made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:57pm.

Gianna Gelci-Steen seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:57pm.

The next Board Meeting is scheduled for March 15, 2021 at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Gianna Gelci-Steen
Secretary