

March 4, 2023
Joint Free Public Library
Of Morristown and Morris Township
Board of Trustees

The annual **retreat** meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Joint Free Public Library of Morristown and Morris Township was called to order at 9:13 AM.

Representing Morristown were: Patricia Ard, Secretary; and Lisa Price

Representing Morris Township were: Don Kiel, Vice President; and Geoff Brooks, Treasurer

Also present were: Deanna Quinones, alternate for Mayor Dougherty; Beth Quirk-Hendry, alternate for Mayor Gyorfy; Chad Leinaweaver, Director; and Mary Lynn Becza, Assistant Director

Pursuant to a resolution of the Board and to RS 10:4-10, "Open Public Meetings Act," the vice president announced that adequate notice of the meeting had been provided by posting notices of the meeting in the Library, by handing the Clerks of Morristown and Morris Township notices of the meeting, and by mailing to the Morris County Daily Record and the Star Ledger copies of the notices of the meetings all more than forty-eight hours prior to the meeting.

The meeting began with a discussion by Mr. Brooks detailing his gathering of documents in response to requests from the office of the attorney general concerning the investment history of the Foster fund. Mr. Brooks reviewed and forwarded 43 years of foster fund accounting documentation. He noted that the library went public in 1967, at that point sharing its budget between the town and township. A discussion ensued of issues involved in the upcoming hearing, set for March 8, 2023.

The municipal funding of the library was discussed, along with efforts by the board to illustrate to the town and township the need for more funding. Actions by the library over the last 15 years to mitigate the loss of financial resources were enumerated. Mr. Brooks and the director noted they anticipated the need in the 2024 budget to invade reserves due to the inflation of wages, energy costs, and materials acquisitions costs. The director stated that Ms. Bangiola has met with the town mayor on this matter and will report on that at the next board meeting. Mr. Brooks and Mr. Kiel will be meeting on March 14, 2023 with township representatives to discuss this matter.

The director reviewed a list of completed and anticipated capital expenditures. Ms. Becza noted that the HVAC units need to be insulated in the near future, and that doing so would reduce heating/AC costs as well as stop the leaking that is occurring. She also noted that the front exterior sliding glass doors needed to be replaced soon.

The board reviewed the status of the current 2023 and future buildings and grounds plans and requests to the Foundation for funding.

The Foundation will meet on March 15, 2023 to decide the amount of the grant application to the Morris County Historical Trust, and that application's implications for a possible NJ Historical grant.

The landscape plan was discussed. The Director will inquire of the Wiley foundation whether they will be able to provide funding towards plantings around the Wiley statue.

The interior space allocation and possible changes were reviewed, including the need for more shelving in the children's section.

The library's website was reviewed for possible changes and enhancements. The board agreed oversight of the website is part of the library's general need for a communications employee. The branding and marketing committee stated it would prepare a list of the various communication avenues with the public that the library currently employs. One of those venues is the internal tv sets in public spaces. Ms. Becza explained why new tvs might be needed before the sets can be reinstalled throughout the library.

Meeting adjourned at noon.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Ard, Secretary