

April 15, 2025
Joint Free Public Library
Of Morristown and Morris Township
Board of Trustees

The monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Joint Free Public Library of Morristown and Morris Township was called to order at 6:01pm.

Representing Morristown were: Nancy Bangiola, President; 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 Guariglia; Anne Piascik, alternate for Superintendent Mucci; Chad Leinaweaver, Director; and Mary Lynn Becza, Assistant Director

Also present were Kristin Hayes of the firm WMSR, and Mark Trokan of GRSM, counsels for the library.

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

Minutes

The March 18, 2025 monthly minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Brooks noted that the library was through one fourth of the fiscal year. He further stated that the budget reflected that the January, 2025 health insurance payment was paid in December, 2024. While the January, 2025 sprinkler event resulted in large expenses, those will be recouped through insurance. The report was received.

The board entered closed session at 6:05pm to discuss ongoing litigation; the Town and Township mayors' representatives recused themselves. Closed session ended at 6:27pm. The mayors' representatives returned at 6:27pm for a separate discussion on an ongoing legal matter. The board exited closed session at 6:31pm.

Building and Grounds Report

The following are the major points presented by Ms. Becza:

- * Ms. Becza stated that architect Bob Russell was on vacation and that when he returned he and she would return to their efforts to improve the insulation around the sprinkler leak area.

- *Ms. Becza met with Morristown Beautiful regarding a grant received to plant around the library sign on the front lawn.

- *The Presbyterian church next to the library is considering our request to jointly clean up and plant the median strip between the two buildings. The damaged tree on the median will be replaced.

Committees

- *Budget- Treasurer Brooks noted that if the litigation concerning municipal payments has a proposed settlement (subject to approval and signature by all parties), the 2025 budget may need to be revised. The report was received.

- *Education Liaison – Schools are on spring break this week.

- *Foundation-There is an upcoming May 22, 2025 meeting where any adjustments needed to the timing of funding for the various library room renovation projects will be discussed. The sprinkler event has caused some possible funding delays.

- *Nominations -N/R

- *Insurance- See prior references above.

- *Personnel- See New Business, below.

- *Facility and Grounds-N/R

- *Branding and Marketing—N/R

New Business:

The director detailed the relevant background and experience of Ms. Abbi Hsu, the current young adult librarian who he was recommending be hired as full time Head of the Children's Department at a salary of \$71,500.00 annually. He also recommended Mr. Jeff Maksuta for Circulation Library Assistant at \$34,500.00 annually. The board approved the hiring of Ms. Hsu and Mr. Maksuta. The need to replace Ms. Hsu's Young Adult position was discussed.

Old Business:

*Ms. Ard showed images of wayfinding signage, furniture, and collections placement from other libraries for the board's consideration.

* The director's suggestions for standardized job requirements on all job postings were discussed. The board approved motions on the following: 1) The job description for Head of Children's Department; 2) The job description for Circulation Library Assistant; 3) Six job requirements for all present and future job descriptions.

A member of the public was present for the open meeting deliberations, stating she wanted to learn about the town through attending various board meetings. She was welcomed and offered any assistance for the future.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Ard, Secretary