

W.H. Walters Free Public Library

1001 East Boulevard

Alpha, NJ 08865

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

Minutes for January 23, 2023

Current guidelines allow for this regular meeting of the W.H. Walters Free Public Library Board of Trustees to be held as an in-person meeting held at the Library. Notice of meeting was advertised and posted with 48 hours' notice by the Library Director on the Library's website and on the front and rear entrance doors to the Library.

The Board of Trustees Meeting for January 23, 2023 was called to order by Stephen Noll at 7:25 pm.

Present at the meeting were Seth Cohen, Craig Dunwell, Tammy McGee, Stephen Noll, and Christina Smith. Tracy Grossman and Carla Roselle were excused.

Open Public Meeting Notice was read by Stephen Noll .

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited at the beginning of the Reorganization meeting.

Agenda Approved – Motion made by Seth Cohen to approve the agenda for the January 2023 regular meeting. The motion was seconded by Craig Dunwell. All approved.

Minutes Approved - A motion was made to approve minutes from the November 2022 minutes by Craig Dunwell and seconded by Christina Smith. Seth Cohen abstained. All others were in favor.

Opportunity for Public Comments - no comments.

Guest Speakers and Programs - None.

President's Report - Stephen Noll asked if Tammy McGee would sign a bank card so she could be the third person on the account; she accepted. Patrick McHenry needs to be taken off the account.

Treasurer's Report – Christina Smith reviewed Bill Payment List and Statement of Financial Report for November 2022. Motion to approve Bills and Checks for November was made by Seth Cohen and seconded by Stephen Noll.. A roll call vote was taken. All were in favor.

Christina Smith reviewed Bill Payment List and Statement of Financial Report for December 2022. Motion to approve Bills and Checks for December was made by Craig Dunwell and seconded by Seth Cohen. A roll call vote was taken. All were in favor.

Motion to approve Financial Report was made by Seth Cohen and seconded by Stephen Noll. A roll vote was taken. All were in favor.

Correspondence – No correspondence.

Internal Library Committee Reports -

Library Director's Report – Stephen Noll noted that we have gotten 110 new members this past year. He let us know that Carla asked if we had any ideas for new programs she could bring to the library. Seth mentioned that the school had a Drone demonstration that was very well received. Stephen said that the American Legion gave him a blank check to cover the cost of whatever size canopy/tent the Library would need in order to host outdoor activities.

Mayor's Report – Stated that person who had interest hasn't been to any meetings and had emailed her at 5:00 today to come to meeting today. Thinks it should be good to have someone who has at least been to a meeting before approving him/her. Tammy added that she had not been to any meetings before being approved to the Board and Christina said she hadn't either.

Craig Dunwell then stated that "back in November, the governing body had a discussion about the upcoming budget cycle for the borough - which is going to be difficult due to debt payments that have to be paid back. The governing body wants to discuss with the Library Board of Trustees whether or not the Library Board of Trustees is going to fulfill it's obligation for the 1998 contract that was signed when this building was built. Specifically, the library agreed to pay its...share of any capital improvements to the building. It also agreed to pay for heat, light, gas, electricity, whatever. The town has waived all that by resolution. We didn't waive it last year. So, we put a roof on the building, which was \$67,000, we did \$12 or 14,000 of work to the hvac system, and we did \$32,000 for all the sidewalks around the building. According to the engineer's calculation, based on square footages, the library is responsible for 37% of capital improvements....it's about \$100,000 of improvements, so at 37%, it's like \$40 or \$41,000. So, the governing body, when we discussed it in November, which was after the last Library Board meeting,..."

He then asked if anyone here still had a copy of the contract from 1998. Seth Cohen responded by asking if we even have the money since we get our money from the town. As per our records, we have about \$89,000 left in our surplus. Tammy then brought up that it was the mayor who told us last year that we needed to find ways to get more money or else we'd be bankrupt within a few years. Seth mentioned that we were under budget this year, so if we figured out how we did that, we could continue that way. Craig said that he looked into it and we were under budget because we got extra state aide, and that we budgeted over \$11,000 to come from surplus and we only spent \$6,000. He then asked why we budgeted so much when we needed so much less. Stephen responded that we did that based on what the auditor suggested we do. As far as programs, Hoopla, and magazines, we spent less than budgeted.

We were reminded of Governor Christie's 2010 surplus law regarding libraries and that the library never complied with the law. Said the Library has gotten a free ride for a decade and now we (the town) needs the money, so the governing body wants to have a conversation with the Library Board about how we're going to pay the money.

Christina Smith feels this is the governing body's fault. If they knew it was there and they knew it was wrong, then why didn't they bring it up. Stephen added that he was told that due to the small size and budget of this library, the State wouldn't approve the money being used for tax relief anyway, which is why it was never paid. Craig wants to see that fact in writing because he didn't hear this information first hand.

Seth suggested we gather all documentation and then we can discuss where we go from there.

School Principal's Report – The school had a very nice Veteran's Day. Assemblies and parties are once again happening in the school. The PTO treated the kids to a laser light show before the Winter break. The School Board has an open seat. Patrick Smith is the new President and Chris McGee is the new Vice-President.

Motion to approve all committee reports was made by Christina Smith and seconded by Seth Cohen. All Approved.

Opportunity for Public Input - no comments.

Old Business – Still waiting on Minutes for 2016. Craig Dunwell said he is on it. Bylaws will continue to be tabled until we have a full board.

New Business – updated policies will need to be gone over with Carla to see what needs to be updated or changed

Next regular meeting and reorganization meeting will be on February 13 2023 at 7:00 pm in the Library.

At 8:01 pm, a motion to adjourn was made by Seth Cohen and seconded by Craig Dunwell. All approved.

Respectfully submitted by Tammy McGee

