

## Hillsdale Free Public Library

**Board of Trustees**

**October 15, 2018**

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In attendance were: Barbara Braun, Warren Harris, Al Metz, Joanne Miano, Mayor John Ruocco, Allen Saslowsky, Kathleen Scordato, Barbara Wertheim

Also present: David Franz, Director of the Library, Abby Lundy, Liaison to Council

Excused: Marie Hanlon

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Barbara Braun, President, called to order a meeting of the Trustees of the Free Public Library of Hillsdale, Bergen County, New Jersey. Notice of this meeting was transmitted to the newspaper of record, filed with the Borough Clerk, and posted on the Library's website and bulletin board, in accordance with the Open Public Meeting's Law.

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM. The Board reviewed the September minutes. A motion was made by Ms. Wertheim to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Saslowsky. Unanimous vote of approval.

Public invited to speak: Present were: John Snyder, reporter from The Pascack Press, and Michael Giancarlo, former President of *The Friends*. Mr. Giancarlo read a prepared statement that he had read to the Hillsdale Town Council last Tuesday, Oct. 9, 2018. He expressed his opinion vis a vis the naming of the Library in exchange for a donation to the Library. He stated that Mr. Franz is an excellent Library Director. From what he understands, for the Library to be renamed, it deserves the input of the residents of Hillsdale. He stated that the Board of Trustees shouldn't rename the Library without input from the town residents (the Library that has been in existence for more than 80 years). He stated that the process should be more transparent. He stated that he had no problem if the residents of this town wanted to rename the Library, but he feels that the Library and public spaces belong to the taxpayers, have been up kept by the people of Hillsdale and it's a bad precedent to rename it without consultation from its residents. He asked that the Library consider that this donation be given more transparency. He further stated that as a former Hillsdale town councilman, he understood the process of public meetings. He stated that this deserves a public meeting and that the residents of Hillsdale should be consulted.

President's Report: Ms. Braun addressing Mr. Giancarlo, "I was advised that you had addressed the Council last week. I would assume that your comments were similar to last week." Mayor Ruocco stated the comments referred to matters discussed in closed session. Ms. Lundy stated that Mr. Giancarlo should know about closed session.

Mr. Heyliger has resigned from the Board. A posting has been placed on the Hillsdale Borough website seeking a new volunteer.

Treasurer's Report: Ms. Miano: The Library is fiscally sound. The bill list was reviewed. We are ahead of our year to date budget. Memberships are ahead by \$3,000. We are seeing a greater utility savings due to the LED light installation and that also will be reflected in our budget projection for next year. Ms. Braun: We will review the budget at our next meeting.

Director's Report: Mr. Franz:

The draft 2019 Budget Proposal was distributed. In November, it will be discussed in detail and then forwarded to the Borough for their discussion. There is an executive summary.

The big unknown until 10/25/18 is a potential BCCLS system charge for delivery. LibraryLinkNJ, without increased funding from the NJ State Library, may not continue to provide delivery. A BCCLS taskforce on delivery recommended that BCCLS start its own delivery system. They have examined the Ramapo-Catskill system. The taskforce did go out for bid for an external contract. There are many unknowns involved with that, such as fuel surcharges and efficiency of delivery routes. BCCLS relied on State funded delivery service for many years. Other true county library systems already provide for their own delivery. Rather than hope for the state to provide funding for delivery, it would be best to advocate for a restoration of full state aid which would benefit all 77 libraries. Hillsdale Library had received \$14,000-\$15,000 annually and it is now only \$4,430. Over the past 10 years, Library budgets have struggled. There will be vote on 10/25/18. The additional charge for BCCLS delivery would be \$7,000 to \$9,000 per library. Mr. Franz requested the Board's input and direction on the vote. A lengthy discussion ensued among the Board.

Ms. Miano: When was it determined that requesting a book from another library is a free service? She asked if we would consider charging for a book that comes from another library.

Mr. Franz: It is to permit the public who have less means to borrow books without any constraints. He advised against a fee structure.

Mr. Harris: It says Free Public Library, to encourage people who do not have the means to use the services of the library. It also allows the public the benefit of all the libraries and their resources, well beyond the books that the Hillsdale Library can provide.

Ms. Miano: This might mean hard choices, hard budget decisions.

Ms. Braun: It goes back to people talking with State individuals, the lobbying has to be strong, with the State decisions makers.

Mr. Metz: He asked about data and the use of BCCLS, does it serve more higher income communities or lower income communities. Is it providing access to libraries that are smaller?

Mr. Franz: We have never analyzed the data in that granular fashion. Ridgewood and Hackensack are very large libraries, with different demographics. Rochelle Park and Northvale municipalized so that they could have access to all of BCCLS. Some libraries have very low operating budgets while others are very high. How BCCLS decides an appropriate fee, being fair to different ends of the spectrum, is difficult.

BCCLS is requesting that it pass with a super majority. Mr. Franz said they want to get all of the parameters in place as soon as possible.

Mr. Metz: Would we anticipate that the cost could be lower in future years?

Ms. Braun: What is your expectation for the next meeting? Mr. Franz has to vote on the 25<sup>th</sup>. A BCCLS run delivery service would mean control over the drivers and routes. He doesn't feel that the state will continue to provide delivery as it has in the past.

Ms. Miano: What happens if we don't get this internal service?

Mr. Harris: If there are not enough Libraries, it could collapse. Collectively, it is a win-win.

Mr. Franz: We need a 60 or 66% vote yes on the 25<sup>th</sup>. If the vote doesn't pass, then it goes back to a discussion for next year.

Mr. Metz: How much of the \$7,000 – \$9,000 would be spent before a decision comes out from the State? How likely it was that NJ State would or would not approve?

Mr. Franz: BCCLS would commit to hiring a supervisor for the delivery service and invest in drivers as the cutover approaches. The NJ State Librarian is on record as stating that BCCLS plan is a prudent choice.

Ms. Braun: Mr. Harris moved to ratify acceptance of the BCCLS proposed delivery service, seconded by Ms. Wertheim. Unanimous vote of approval.

Mr. Franz: In May 2018, NJ passed the NJ Sick Leave Act, which allocates 1 hour of paid sick leave for every 30 hours that one works up to 40 hours. It takes effect on 10/29/18. Until the personnel manual can be fully reviewed and revised, the Board should approve compliance with the new law. Mr. Franz will be keeping track of employees affected by the change. Employees working 12 hours or more per week are already receiving sick time. Mr. Metz asked is the vote stating that anyone who has in excess of those hours, will he/she lose the hours? At this time benefits will not be reduced. This is to ensure those not currently accruing sick time will begin to accrue time in accordance with the law.

Mr. Harris stated that we should make a resolution to be in full compliance with the minimum requirements of the NJ Sick Leave Act. Ms. Wertheim made a motion to approve the resolution to be in full compliance with the minimum requirements of the NJ Sick Leave Act, seconded Ms. Scordato. Unanimous vote of approval.

There was a motion made by Mr. Metz to sign an Engagement Agreement with Mr. Douglas S. Zucker for \$175 an hour, seconded by Ms. Scordato. Unanimous vote of approval.

A motion was made at 8:17 PM to go into closed session for the purposes of discussing contracts. Ms. Braun so moved, Mr. Harris seconded. The Board of Trustees went into closed session.

At 9:38 PM, a motion was made by Ms. Braun to move back into open session, seconded by Mayor Ruocco. There was a unanimous vote of approval.

No action was taken in closed session.

*The Friends:* NA

New Business: No new business.

The next Library Board meeting will be on November 12, 2018. Ms. Scordato moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Miano. The meeting officially adjourned at 9:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Deirdre Danaher*  
Recording Secretary