

THE OSSINING PUBLIC LIBRARY
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD
November 26, 2007

Attending: OPL trustees Bob Minzesheimer, Joyce Lannert, Peter Capek, Thomas Staudter, Mirla Morrison, Lucinda Manning, Reginald Bush; OPL director Beth Bermel.

President Minzesheimer called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM in the board room of the library. The agenda was approved.

Minutes: A motion was made (Bush, Lannert) to approve the October 10, 2007 minutes. Passed 6-0 with Manning abstaining. A motion was made (Lannert, Bush) to approve the October 22, 2007 minutes. Passed 6-0 with Manning abstaining. Staudter, the board's secretary, was asked to get the minutes out earlier.

Public Comment: None

Director's Report: Bermel talked about the library's operating budget and how pay increases for staff will kick in this January. Lannert inquired about a refund in taxes paid by the library; Bermel reported no word yet. School district is settling out of court with Phillips Labs on a certiorari case. Library may have to pay its share of settlement. Water seepage hearing continued. Bermel noted she was present at the DOH water hearing in New Rochelle in which the OPL was asked to be represented by a lawyer, which she felt as unnecessary. The OPL was fined \$250, which is charged to the contractor for not filing paperwork, Contractor will also pay legal fees associated with fine and DOH hearing. There will be a hearing on December 17 on the water overflow citation regarding the DeRosa property. Bermel said the library's insurance agent is looking at the matter. Staudter suggested that the OPL think about trimming its 2008-2009 budget by at least 5% Minzesheimer asked Bermel to evaluate the OPL website, make changes. The board discussed unfavorable comments about the OPL left on the website.

Construction: Lannert noted that major modifications have been made to the geothermal system. The wells seem to be working better. We were told that there was No warranty on pumps because they are not intended for commercial/industrial use. Capek's Sept. 20 email to architect and construction manager and engineer for new library building regarding who is liable for geothermal malfunctions went ignored. We still have not received an explanation as to why all five No clear reason why pumps failed. Punch list and performance space work still needed. Will costs be charged back to architect? This is why we're holding off on paying some of the bills, said Lannert. In the end, construction of the new OPL went just 3% over budget—a remarkable feat, all agreed. Minzesheimer expressed frustration that parking lot wasn't completed. Signage around library needed, Bermel said.

Café: Capek said there was still no lease/contract signed. Wobble Café owners, who'll be operating the OPL café, wants to know if they can have right of first refusal on all catering events at library. Board didn't agree to this. A motion was made (Lannert, Minzesheimer) to set the café rent at \$300/month. Passed 5-2, with Manning and Staudter dissenting because they the figure was too low. Minzesheimer suggested that celebration be held when café opens.

New Business: The December 17 meeting of the board will start at 5 PM. The pending 2008 dates will finalized at the next meeting.

Old Business: A motion was made (Manning, Morrison) to pass New Resolution #9 which rescinds Resolutions #6, #7 and #8 dated October 22, 2007 that reduces the Special Library Funding in the

amount of \$16, 145, \$45,116 and \$47,453 respectively to allow for proper classification of expenditures relating to the construction of the new library meeting. Unanimous. A motion was made (Manning,Capek) to pass New Resolution #10 which authorizes an appropriation of undesignated Fund balance in the amount of \$62,713.00 for the purposes of additional costs related to the construction of the new library. This resolution also authorizes and increased to the Capital Fund by appropriating the General Fund Balance. Passed 5-2 with bush and Minzesheimer dissenting because of continuing costs associated with geothermal system, which shouldn't be malfunctioning so soon after starting up.

Invoices: A motion was made (Staudter, Lannert) to pay the following invoices on the recommendation of Lannert, following her review: Beatty Harvey #4217 (\$18.11); Carino Management (\$29,385.00); Fred Cook Jr. Inc. #16558 (\$600.00); Keane & Beane (\$1,462.50); Malcolm Patrick #No. 19 (\$115,245.45); Munz Associates #2 (\$495.00); Savin #8760 (\$34.30); Special Testing #21534 (\$236.00); and Vernon Hills Contracting #241 (\$16,900.00). Passed 6-1, with Bush dissenting because of continuing costs associated with geothermal system.

Leased Lot: Morrison suggested we hold back for now and see what traffic patterns are like. All agreed.

Scholarship: Lannert noted that library-sponsored scholarships to Ossining students cannot be granted with taxpayer dollars. Staudter will continue looking at the idea.

At 9:50 PM a motion was made (Staudter, Bush) to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue relating to an employee attendance record and pending litigation. At 10:25 PM a motion was made (Staudter, Manning) to exit the Executive Session. Both motions passed unanimously.

A motion was made (Staudter, Capek) to approve a raise of \$5000 annually for OPL director Beth Bermel, increasing it from \$92K to \$97K. Passed 6-0 with Manning abstaining.

A motion was made (Bush, Capek) to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 PM. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,
Thomas Staudter