

**HUNTERDON COUNTY LIBRARY COMMISSION
HUNTERDON COUNTY LIBRARY
314 STATE ROUTE 12
FLEMINGTON, NEW JERSEY
September 19, 2014**

The regular meeting of the Hunterdon County Library Commission was called to order at 9:07 a.m.

ATTENDANCE

Thomas Valasek, Jean Allured, William Newitt, Nouhad Jensen, Library Director Mark Titus, Freeholder John Lanza. Absent: Peter Mustardo.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING ACT

Read by Jean Allured.

OLD BUSINESS

East Amwell representatives

Mayor Dart Sageser, Committeeman Tim Mathews, and Planning Board Chairman Don Reilly were present to speak to the Library Commission about South County Branch Library.

Mayor Sageser stated that East Amwell had a long-term commitment to South County Branch and the community misses the library. It was a community asset and they would like it to return when the current lease is up. They would like to know what can be done to bring it back to the community.

One suggestion he offered is to use the land owned by East Amwell adjacent to the County Park. The library trailer was once placed in that area and this would bring it back to where it started.

Mr. Reilly stated other options could be discussed.

Mr. Titus stated there are other communities that pay the library tax and that we are not in a position to build libraries all over the county. We are happy with the current arrangement and had a limited time frame to move when the former lease was up. Mr. Titus further stated that there was an outreach to East Amwell during this period and nothing came of it.

Freeholder Lanza pointed out that there has been a turnover on the committee since then, which may explain the outcome during that period. Freeholder Lanza explained that the Library Commission should decide if bringing the library back to East Amwell would be a good move. If so, the Freeholders will keep an open mind and look at all the numbers.

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OLD BUSINESS (cont.)

Committeeman Mathews offered that if the County could build a baseball complex, East Amwell could bond for the land and building. They would need a commitment for the ball field first. They could work with the Library Commission on the library's needs and build the building.

William Newitt entered the meeting at 9:27 a.m.

Mr. Titus stated we already have a staff for South County, so moving them would not present a problem. We have a number of affiliate libraries and supply them with computers, but we do not provide staff and building upkeep. This would have to be worked out. We would have to look at numbers and see what everyone's expectations are.

Thomas Valasek inquired as to how much discussion about this has been in the community. He was told they are in exploration at this point, but there is a strong desire in town for a community center.

The East Amwell representatives left the meeting at 9:45 a.m.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

COMMENTS FROM MEMBER LIBRARIES

None.

REPORT FROM THE FRIENDS

Jean Allured reported for the Friends.

- The South County Park worked out well for the book sale and the Friends now have a lease for the Grange building for next year's sale.
- The Finance Committee is currently working on allocations.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Thomas Valasek moved approval of the June 20, 2014 meeting minutes. Nouhad Jensen seconded. Motion carried.

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DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- We are doing a lot of programs and activities with the bookmobile and at South County Branch.
- World War I displays are up around the Headquarters Library commemorating the 100th anniversary of the beginning of the war.
- We had several successful outdoor concerts this summer.
- Elizabeth Gilbert did a Tricentennial program, which was put together by Jennifer Winberry.
- The Adult Reading Club read a total of 1700 books this year.
- September is Library Card Promotion month. We now have forty businesses taking part. The annual photography show is coming in October. The gingerbread contest is also coming back in December.

Mrs. Winberry updated the Library Commission on Polaris. We had a successful upgrade of the system on September 18.

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Mr. Titus reviewed and approved the vouchers.

We still do not have balance sheets for this year. Mr. Titus will be working with Finance on this. We would be open to being integrated into the County finance system rather than being a stand-alone.

Thomas Valasek moved approval of the financial report. William Newitt seconded. Motion carried.

PERSONNEL RESOLUTIONS

Nouhad Jensen moved approval of the following personnel resolutions:

Autumn Dilley be released from the position of part-time Librarian, effective June 26, 2014.

Full-time Library Clerk Driver Karen Case be granted a leave of absence without pay, effective August 26, 2014 – November 30, 2014.

Linda Thompson be released from the position of part-time Library Assistant, effective September 1, 2014.

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PERSONNEL RESOLUTIONS (cont.)

Part-time Library Assistant Linda Hansen be granted a leave of absence without pay, effective September 1, 2014 – October 31, 2014.

Thomas Valasek seconded. Motion carried.

Walkway project

As of a week ago, the project has still not gone out to bid. We are concerned about staying open during the project and routing people through the doors.

Freeholder Lanza will look into this.

High Bridge Library 100th anniversary

Jean Allured signed a resolution commemorating High Bridge Library's 100th anniversary. The resolution will be framed and sent to High Bridge Library.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Library Commission went into executive session at 10:10 a.m. to discuss legal and personnel matters. The commission came out of executive session at 11:14 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:14 a.m.

Kathleen Connors
Secretarial Assistant