



BETHEL PUBLIC LIBRARY

189 Greenwood Avenue, Bethel, CT 06801

203-794-8756 Fax 203-794-8761

www.bethellibrary.org

RECEIVED

JUL 01 2008

**TOWN OF BETHEL
TOWN CLERK**

**Finance Committee of the Bethel Public Library Board of Directors
Minutes of 6/30/08 Special Meeting**

The Finance committee of the Bethel Public Library Board of Directors met on 6/30/08 at 10:00 a.m. at the Library.

Present: Leslie Mason, Eileen Freebairn, Connie Booth, Chair, and Lynn Rosato, Library Director.

Absent: 0

All accounts were reviewed in response to the recent cuts to the library budget proposal for FY2008-2009.

\$60,000 in cuts was arrived at through reductions that included eliminating or reducing printing of the hard copy of the Newsletter, eliminating overdue notices, reductions in equipment maintenance account, a dramatic reduction in books and materials and employee education accounts and cuts to the telephone, program and dues and services accounts.

An interesting service available that might ease the overdue notices cut is Library Elf. This is an independent website where a patron can sign up to receive advance notice of pending overdue books.

In reference to the cuts in equipment, a new alternative being researched by the director is using a Thin Client rather than the standard computer desktop or tower. Thin Clients have sufficient RAM for searching Internet sites, but not much else. We may be able to eliminate the cost of towers or desktops if Thin Clients prove to be compatible with the Bibliomation system. It will be much less expensive and these can be used as public computers since the public does not save anything to the hard drives.

Personnel cuts were discussed and two choices were arrived at. They are:

1. Open at 10:00 a.m. Monday through Saturday and defer the COLA increase of 4% until January of '09. The latter would result in only a 2% annual increase but would give a nice boost in January and establish a higher base for salaries.

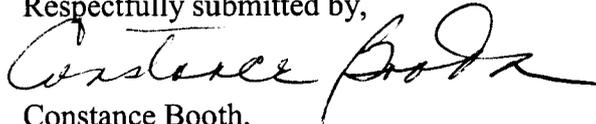
2. Close Saturdays during the summer, open at 10:00 a.m. Monday through Saturday through the year and reduce COLA to 3%. The library is closed on Sundays in the summer already.

The committee unanimously chose the first alternative and highly recommends it to the board.

The board also should ask the town for the fines collected through the year to be given back to the library, without further decreasing the bottom line. Fines collected during 07-08 are about \$17,500.

Lynn Rosato was commended for the meticulous job she did in assisting the Finance Committee.

Respectfully submitted by,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Constance Booth".

Constance Booth,
Chair, Finance Committee