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**Bethel Public Library**  
**189 Greenwood Avenue, Bethel, CT 06801**  
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[www.bethellibrary.org](http://www.bethellibrary.org)

**Minutes of Special Meeting**

The Bethel Public Library Board of Directors

Thursday, January 22, 2009

7:00PM

CJH Municipal Center---Meeting Room "A"

**Present:** Terri Rotella, Lorraine Go, Linda Curtis, Leslie Mason, Richard Merritt, Geraldine Mills, Elisa Volpati, Dorathea Gulya-Stasney, Bob Crnic, Daniel Gaita, Tom Addonizio, Shani Burke Specht, Library Chair  
Lynn Rosato, Library Director

Guests: Mr. William Slifkin, Vice Chair Board of Finance—Town of Bethel 16 Katrina Circle.  
Mr. Bob Tripi

Call to Order: Shani Burke Specht called the Special Meeting to order at 7:03PM and led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Linda Curtis arrived at 7:04PM.

**Correspondence**

Chairman Burke Specht read an email from First Selectman Robert Burke urging the Board of Directors "to make the budget as close to status quo" as possible.

Mr. Slifkin spoke as an individual from the Board of Finance. This year's budget requires a 0% increase for the Budget 2009-2010. This is in response to the current economic state of the country, within CT and Fairfield County in particular. It was recognized that all Municipal organizations when submitting their budget requests will be urged to do likewise.

Elisa Volpati arrived at 7:06PM.

Lynn Rosato spoke of a recent plumbing problem that caused minor flooding in the Seelye House. Containment and cleanup are currently underway. This may necessitate a delayed opening on January 23, 2009 for the library.

Four new Board members were introduced—Daniel Gaita, Elisa Volpati, Doratheia Gulya-Stasney, and Tom Addonizio.

## **Unfinished Business**

### **1.) 2009 Meeting Schedule**

It was moved by Chairman, Burke Specht and seconded by Geraldine Mills that the 2009 Meeting Schedule be accepted as presented, with all regular meetings being held on the fourth Monday of each month, with the exception of May when meeting is held on May 18 due to the Memorial Day Holiday, the September mtg. be moved to September 29<sup>th</sup>, due to previously fourth Monday falling on Jewish holiday Yom Kippur, the December meeting to take place on December 14 due to Holidays and the January 2010 mtg. be moved to January 11, 2010 to allow for budget considerations/review before submission to Town Comptroller. Vote all in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

### **2.) Review and Approve 2009-2010 Operating Budget**

Discussion then resumed about current economic situation in the country and on the local level. Cost reductions must be considered on every line item when possible. Alternative funding, both via grants and/or private donations will be considered and sought to help defray or minimize decreasing services that the library offers. It was noted that in worsening economic times, library usage increases. Options to replace computers will be re-explored by Lynn Rosato and Tom Addonizio to determine best value.

**201 SUPPLIES:** The cost of the Library Newsletter was discussed. It was suggested that funding by private contributors or the Friends could be an option, as well as the Development Committee. The goal is to reduce Library cost but maintain the service. A motion to cut the Supplies Budget by \$1,000.00 was made by Bob Crnic, seconded by Dan Gaita. The motion passed unanimously. The new total will be 13,080.

**206 EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE:** The Vernon self check out service was determined not to be of value at this time do in part to low usage by the public. Tom Addonizio made a motion to eliminate the \$1,750 for cost of Self Check out Maintenance Contract for one year, seconded by Geraldine Mills. Vote all in favor, the motion passed unanimously. New total will be \$12,517.

**212 BOOKS AND MATERIALS:** Geraldine Mills made a motion to reduce B & M by 1% and then rescinded same motion. Dan Gaita made a motion to eliminate \$3,000 from reference materials, seconded by Geraldine Mills. Discussion followed and motion rescinded by Dan Gaita. He then made a motion to reduce by 3%, seconded by Geraldine Mills. Discussion followed—some felt that this area has been hard hit in past and needs to remain as is. Voting in favor of reduction were Geraldine Mills, Linda Curtis, Dan Gaita and Bob Crnic. Those voting against were Richard Merritt, Terri Rotella, Shani Burke Specht, Tom Addonizio, Elisa Volpati, Lorraine Go and Leslie Mason. Abstention: Doratheia Gulya-Stasney. Motion failed. Shani Burke Specht made a motion that the book budget remains at \$104,600.00 which was seconded by Terri Rotella. Discussion followed. Voting against the motion were Linda Curtis, Dan Gaita, Geraldine Mills and Bob Crnic. Voting in favor of motion were Leslie Mason, Shani Burke Specht, Elisa Volpati, Lorraine Go, Richard Merritt, Tom Addonizio, Doratheia Gulya-Stasney and Terri Rotella. Motion passed 8/4. Total remains at \$104,600.00.

301 EMP. EDUCATION and EXP.: Shani Burke Specht made a motion to leave request at \$1500, seconded by Geraldine Mills. Motion passed. Total remains at \$1500.00.

313 CONTRACTED SERVICES: Bibliomation fee of \$41,020 generated much discussion. The fee will be potentially re-examined by Bibliomations's Finance Committee and Board per Lynn Rosado. No change in rate at this time to users (libraries). Geraldine Mills made a motion to decrease \$1500 from the Pitney Bowes Postage Machine line item, seconded by Lorraine Go. Vote all in favor, the motion passed unanimously. New Request is \$44575.00.

321 TELEPHONE: Geraldine Mills made a motion to retain \$1850.00, seconded by Terri Rotella. Vote all in favor, the motion passed unanimously. Total remains at \$1850.00.

358 PROGRAMMING: Shani Burke Specht made a motion to retain \$1000.00, seconded by Dan Gaita. Vote all in favor, the motion passed unanimously... Total remains at \$1,000.00.

359 DUES & SERVICES: Dan Gaita made a motion to retain \$1025.00, seconded by Geraldine Mills. Vote all in favor, the motion passed unanimously. Total remains at \$1025.00.

101,102,104,105 SALARIES: Bob Crnic made a motion to freeze current salaries, seconded by Geraldine Mills at \$555,471.00. Discussion followed. It was discussed that the goal of freezing salaries is to maintain the positions at the Library. Vote all in favor, the motion passed unanimously. Total is adjusted to \$555,471.00.

109 LONGEVITY: Shani Burke Specht made a motion to eliminate \$2,000.00 from longevity, seconded by Bob Crnic. Voting in favor of elimination were Shani Burke Specht, Bob Crnic, Dorathea Gulya-Stasney, Dan Gaita and Geraldine Mills. Voting against the elimination were Tom Addonizio, Lorraine Go, Elisa Volpati, Richard Merritt, Terri Rotella, Leslie Mason and Linda Curtis. Motion failed 5/7. Total remains at \$2,000.00.

Terri Rotella made a motion to accept bottom line of \$737,618.00, seconded by Bob Crnic. Vote all in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Burke Specht thanked the members of the Board for their time, diligence, and understanding. Further Chairman Burke Specht stated, "These are not easy decisions to make. We all feel the Library is a vital part of our Community and that we need to maintain as many hours and services as possible. We hope the Boards of Selectman and Finance will appreciate the hard work and sacrifices made."

Shani Burke Specht made a motion to adjourn at 9:40PM seconded by Geraldine Mills. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by,



Leslie Mason,  
Library Board Secretary