

**GREAT NECK LIBRARY
MINUTES OF THE
SPECIAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
Friday, October 13, 2006 at 9:30 a.m.**

A special meeting of the Great Neck Library Board of Trustees was held on Friday, October 13, 2006, in the Community Room of the Main Library, 159 Bayview Avenue, Great Neck, New York 11023.

The following Trustees were present constituting a quorum:

David Kahn – President
Joyce Klein – Vice President
Bette Weidman – Secretary
Norman Rutta – Treasurer
Linda Cohen – Assistant Treasurer
Martin Sokol

Absent: Marietta DiCamillo – Assistant Treasurer

Also present: Arlene Nevens – Library Director
Laura Weir – Assistant Library Director
Neil Zitofsky – Business Manager

CALL TO ORDER

President Kahn called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m. to discuss the repair or the replacement of the air conditioning system either by doing a band-aid approach or to do the more expensive replacement of the cooling system.

Upon motion by Bette Weidman, seconded by Linda Cohen, and after discussion, it was,

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Great Neck Library make immediate repairs to the air conditioning unit at a cost of \$17,000.

Trustee Sokol stated that, with the permission of President Kahn, he had spoken to the engineers who were interviewed. Lilker Associates were optimistic that by doing the larger project, the air conditioning system could be carried over to the projected renovation and that it would be a good investment. The IP Group can do the job but was not definitive on whether the unit could be reused. Their concerns were that if the

larger job were to be done, then the planning of the building project would revolve around the air conditioning system. Glickman Engineering felt that it was best to do the repair.

If the Board had chosen to do the larger project, the required documentations from the Town of North Hempstead and the engineer might not meet the Nassau Library System's deadline of November 20, 2006 for funding from the Construction Grant. On the other hand, to carry out a repair on the unit, a simple letter from the Town stating that they did not have a role because it was a simple repair work would be required.

Trustee Rutta moved for the tabling of the motion until after a discussion of the engineer. Then, when the motion to hire or not to hire an engineer was voted on, the original motion should then be considered. There was no second. The motion failed. Therefore the original motion stood and a vote was taken.

VOTE: Yes - 5 (Cohen, Kahn, Klein, Sokol, Weidman); No - 1(Rutta)
MOTION CARRIED

Director Nevens was instructed by the President to move forward with the required documentation for the repair process of the unit to meet the Construction Grant deadline. She indicated that she would obtain additional estimates from other vendors as a matter of procedure. She was also asked to contact Glickman Engineering to see what his fees would be to review the proposals from the vendors. She will report back to the Board at the October 24th Board meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

Director Nevens reported that the Town of North Hempstead has included on its agenda for their next meeting their approval of funding of up to \$10,000 for the traffic study for the Library. The Library will lay out the money for the work and will be reimbursed by the Town.

Trustee Rutta voiced his concern about the Great Neck Library Staff Association's visibility and involvement in Library elections and for the Staff Association to take a position is harmful for the institution and the community and it threatens the Library's status as a tax exempt organization. He read a letter from the Staff Association that was addressed to its members (attached).

Trustee Weidman indicated that the Staff Association is a union and is free to take political position. At Queens College, where she works, union meetings are held on premises and they take stand on all kinds of issues and they are encouraged to post their messages. She hopes that the Board is a union-friendly employer.

Trustee Cohen pointed out that her impression of unions in general is that they are protected by free speech, and laws that allow the shop steward to have space on premises to do their job.

Trustee Sokol felt that the Board would want to maintain the best relationship with staff.

The Director brought out that staff contract allows the Staff Association to have two meetings annually on library time on Wednesday mornings when the Library is closed. The Staff Association can also use the premises for their meetings but on their own time.

Trustee Rutta objected to staff conducting business on Library time. When staff takes the position contrary to the Nominating Committee's endorsement, they are in effect choosing the governance of the Library. Staff Association should not be involved in the political debate of who runs this institution.

President Kahn indicated that this was totally out of line with American policy and it is not going to go anywhere either with the Board, the public or with the Staff Association.

ADJOURNMENT

The public meeting was adjourned at 10:10 a.m. and on motion by Joyce Klein and seconded by Norman Rutta, the Board went into executive session to discuss personnel matters. There was a motion to adjourn and the Board came out of Executive Session.

Respectfully submitted,

Bette Weidman
Secretary