

**GREAT NECK LIBRARY  
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING  
Tuesday, April 25, 1995**

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Great Neck Public Library was held on Tuesday, April 25, 1995, at the Library on Bayview Avenue, Grist Mill Lane, Great Neck, N.Y. 11024. The purpose of the meeting was a public hearing on the 1996 Preliminary Proposed Budget.

The following Trustees were present constituting a quorum:

Ralene Adler  
Jo Ann Farley  
Steve Glaser  
Arthur Lerner  
Dolly Relkin

Also present:

Ken Weil, Library Director  
Steven Limmer, Esq.  
Members of the Public (attendance sheet  
attached)

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 p.m. by acting President Arthur Lerner, who stated the purpose of the meeting is to get full public involvement in the review of the 1996 proposed Library budget before its adoption by the Board. Mr. Lerner requested that the public hold their questions until the end of the presentation of each category, limiting each member of the public to three minutes.

### **BUDGET HEARING**

Library Director, Ken Weil presented a summary of the 1996 budget explaining the increase or decrease in each category. At the end of the summary Mr. Weil announced a 3 cent reduction in the tax rate, or \$3.00 per \$10,000 of assessed valuation returned to the taxpayer. Mr. Weil indicated that each item has been projected in terms of history and current experience.

Mr. Michael Zarin, resident, spoke about the General Fund Balance, asking what percentage was in the 1996 budget. Mr. Weil responded 5%. Mr. Zarin further questioned why give a decrease - why go up and down?

Mr. Weil reported on neighboring library tax rates as a comparison:

Port Washington	\$2.78
Roslyn	\$2.63
Great Neck	\$2.17
Manhasset	\$2.03

Madge Kaplan, resident asked why the Library was reducing the budget -why give money back? The Library budget was never defeated and no one has asked for this. Mr. Lerner, Acting President, responded that he never knew anyone who had turned down a tax refund.

The Director, Ken Weil, reviewed page 2: Receipts, Codes 1001, 2982, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2360, 2401, 2670, 2671, 2675. Mr. Zarin, resident, asked about interest income and was there an adequate amount of interest? Mr. Weil responded that the Library is investing only in Treasury Bills at the present time. Mr. Zarin made a comment about receiving information from the Library by fax, and he was upset he had to pay 25 cents a page. Mr. Zarin also spoke about library expansion, stating an amount had been put aside in the first proposed budget and it would be prudent to put money aside for future needs. Mariette DiCamillo, resident, stated there's over \$480,000 in reserve now - how much do you need? Bernice Jacobs, resident, stated that Mr. Zarin makes the assumption expansion is taking place, and that has not been decided. Valerie Feinman, resident, responding to returning money to the taxpayer, asked "what is \$200,000 in a budget like this?"

Mr. Weil reviewed the Library's Reserve Funds:

1. Fixed Asset Building Reserves
2. Unemployment Reserves
3. Automated Library Fund
4. Main Building Expansion Fund
5. Catastrophic Illness
6. Continuing Education Fund

These restricted funds are defined in the Board's Policy Manual, and fund balances are reported monthly in the Treasurer's Report. Mr. Weil also reviewed the 1994 surplus of over \$636,000. and stated this budget was returning \$200,000 to the taxpayer. Mr. Lerner stated it was a budget which was prudent. Mr. Zarin repeated his earlier question about the projection for the fund balance in 1996. Mr. Weil responded 5%. Marianna Wohlgemuth asked if money was available for additional hours at Parkville? Mr. Weil's response was no.

Trustee, Ralene Adler asked about maintaining and updating the collection. Mr. Weil responded if it was the Board's goal - this may require a reallocation of staff time.

Mr. Zarin asked questions concerning the negotiation with the Staff Association asking if the Board knew what other employers are giving, and whether the Board knew enough about this budget to vote on it. Mr. Lerner responded an agreement had been reached between the Board and Staff negotiating teams, but had not yet been ratified. Mr. Weil said there were sufficient funds in the personnel budget to cover the agreement.

A resident stated that 45 minutes had gone by and we were only on page 4 - and asked that Mr. Zarin allow the community to address the budget and stop disrupting the meeting.

Valerie Feinman, resident, asked if sufficient funds were in computer hardware. Mr. Weil responded that \$18,500 is sufficient.

Mr. Zarin, resident, stated there's interest at Parkville and Lakeville for additions - is there provision in the current Budget for improvement to the branches? Mr. Weil responded it is difficult to know that before a lease is agreed to. Mr. Zarin responded refurbishing or rehabilitating Main is wasteful - if expansion is going to be done in 3 years. A resident responded that no one said expansion is going to take place. Valerie Feinman asked questions about the book budget.

Page 5 - Mr. Cohen, resident, asked about the increase of \$1440 on the VCR line and wanted to know how many pieces \$42,000 would buy. The response was approximately 5,000 pieces. Mr. Weil also talked about periodicals and newspapers.

Page 6 - Mr. Weil reviewed Database services and Internet and the CD Rom Network and the Library being in the forefront of technology. He talked about Magazine ASAP which now has 5 years of magazine articles available.

Page 7 - Mr. Cohen, resident, asked if programming could be considered as a paying service? The response was that the public pays for services in their taxes.

Mr. Zarin, resident, asked about the Library's program for the developmentally handicapped. Ralene Adler, Trustee, spoke about programs being inclusionary, that language and cultural barriers have been cut down and that there is room to make programs better.

Under professional fees and services - Mr. Zarin wanted to know about the Library's audit and whether any additional audits have been suggested by accountants. The response was negative.

Page 9 of the budget was reviewed without questions.

Page 10 - Questions were raised about the differences at the 3 branches - no story hours at Lakeville and Station; Parkville has more children so the services are different. With reference to taxes paid to landlords as a not-for-profit corporation, Mr. Limmer, Library attorney, said that by virtue of the lease the Library must pay certain additional taxes.

Page 11 - No questions. Page 12 - a question raised about staff Health and Dental Insurance. It was reported that both were shared by employees. Robert Bernstein, resident asked about the salary and benefits of the Director. Response was the Library is subject to the Open Meetings Law and accepts the Public Information Law. With regard to employees, salaries are traditionally available by title.

Upon motion made by Jo Ann Farley, seconded by Steven Glaser, and unanimously approved, it was,

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Trustees adopt the proposed 1996 Budget in the amount of \$5,930,552 of which \$5,542,052 is to be raised by taxation, and that a letter and a copy of the Budget be sent to the Great Neck School District ( copy of budget attached to the minutes).

Mr. Zarin, resident, pointed out the School District is on a fiscal year and forecasts their budget only 1 month ahead. The Library is on a calendar year which is a disability to the Director in forecasting. Should the Library's calendar year be changed to the school year? The Library's attorney Steven Limmer responded that the State changed not-for-profit corporations to a calendar year. Mr. Zarin stated years ago the Schools had to borrow money for their fund balance.

Resident, Sylvia Wiener wanted to make a statement. Mr. Lerner said if it did not have to do with the budget it was out of order. Madge Kaplan stated everyone wants to see a budget passed - a hearing is pertinent to the budget. Mr. Zarin said the vote for the budget was invalid. He reiterated his statement at the April 11th meeting that a hearing be scheduled.

Mr. Lerner stated that everyone was heard at the April 11th meeting. At that time those who spoke also issued statements which were printed in the newspapers. You had your meeting concerning resignations.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion by Ralene Adler, seconded by Jo Ann Farley, and unanimously approved, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dolly Relkin  
Secretary