

GREAT NECK LIBRARY
MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Wednesday, April 26, 1995

A Special meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Great Neck Library was held on Wednesday, April 26, 1995, in the Multipurpose Room at the Library on Bayview Avenue, at Grist Mill Lane, Great Neck, N.Y. 11024, for the purpose of electing new officers to the Board, and voting on a notification to the State Comptroller.

The following Trustees were present constituting a quorum:

Ralene Adler
Jo Ann Farley
Steven 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 by Acting President, Arthur Lerner, at 8:30 p.m.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The first order of business was the Election of Officers. Each officer resigned his/her office as follows:

Arthur Lerner, Vice President
Dolly Relkin, Secretary
Jo Ann Farley, Assistant Treasurer

Upon motion by Arthur Lerner, seconded by Dolly Relkin, and unanimously carried, the following officers were elected:

Jo Ann Farley, President
Arthur Lerner, Vice President
Dolly Relkin, Secretary
Ralene Adler, Treasurer
Steven Glaser, Assistant Treasurer
Arthur Lerner, Assistant Treasurer

Mr. Zarin addressed the question of the Trustee resignations and asked if the Board intended or did not intend to schedule a hearing. Mr. Lerner replied that at the outset of the meeting of April 11th he stated the positions of the resignees would be heard. That meeting was for the budget, but Mr. Lerner permitted them to speak and their statements were published in the newspaper. They had the opportunity to be heard, and it is a matter of public record. Madge Kaplan stated they wanted to work out the differences. Mr. Lerner replied there were no differences; the Board is acting for the Library and is following the laws of New York State and the By-Laws.

The new President, Jo Ann Farley assumed the Chair and moved to the next item on the Agenda.

NOTIFICATION TO STATE COMPTROLLER

Upon motion by Ralene Adler, seconded by Dolly Relkin, and carried unanimously, it was,

RESOLVED, that the President be authorized to send a letter to the Office of the State Comptroller requesting assistance for a comprehensive evaluation of the Library's fiscal policies and procedures.

Before adoption of the resolution, and during the public discussion, Ralene Adler expressed her belief that she, as the new Treasurer, and the Library would benefit from any assistance the State Comptroller's office could provide. She stated she believes in utilizing every resource so that systems and controls are established for proper fiscal responsibility, and that this was a free service which the Library could avail itself of.

President, Jo Ann Farley allowed 3 minutes to everyone who wanted to speak on the subject.

Michael Zarin - Hopes letter not offered to cast doubt on any person. Usually requested when a targeted investigation. If the Board wants an audit, ask your accountant. Ask May Newburger, it was terrible when she did it. With regard to resignations, have clergy sit down with you and get answers.

Jack Eber - Appealed to Board to vote no on the question.

Marietta DiCamillo - It all depends on how you feel about an audit - May Newburger said they were sloppy and had to clean it up. It could be positive when a neutral party comes in.

Karen Rubin - Asked Ralene Adler if when she asked for information, on March 28th at Parkville Branch, concerning the Building Program expenditures and commitments, if that had anything to do with this issue?

Ralene Adler responded that was another issue.

Valerie Feinman - I know Ralene Adler and served with her on the Citizens' Building Advisory Committee. Mrs. Adler has tenacity and needs to know all the details. This is typical of how she works and I believe she will make an excellent Board member.

Mel Zeller - CPA - I believe an audit is in order, but you usually call the State if there is impropriety.

Madge Kaplan - Why are you asking for assistance?

Ralene Adler - It will make my job easier. I believe in utilizing every resource to make the Treasurer's role better.

Madge Kaplan - You're giving an impression out there - people will feel uncertain about the budget.

Bobby Zeller - I have read the press. An outside agency impugns Great Neck Community - it will cast doubt- please reconsider.

Doris Salzburg - The Library represents an important place in the community - to ask the State for an audit shows total lack of regard for economic circumstances, or there must be dishonesty.

Mel Goldberg - There's something wrong - as a member of the public how can you throw out an election; and now do an audit - is this dirty linen in public? All the Board responded: "They chose to resign".

Arthur Lerner stated there was an executive session, afterward a Board meeting on the Budget. The next day three people voluntarily sent in resignations and the resignations became effective . The Library Attorney said the Board has the right to accept rescissions but then the Board would be open to a lawsuit.

Stuart Chodosh - Do the audit. If you vote it down it will send a negative message. Clear the air and do the audit.

Ralene Adler - I'm asking for assistance.

Michael Zarin - On the night of April 4th the Board asked Reneé Zarin to resign and refused to say why. Sit down and mediate. About the audit: if it has nothing to do with impropriety, ask your accountant, then you go to the State. Step back and look at this.

Jack Eber - I speak for the community, vote no.

Richard Boyle - Eber does not speak for me. I'm a member of the public and it's comforting to me for the Comptroller to look at finances. Start new and we can have confidence. The Comptroller will do his job. And I would like to see the Republican Comptroller put to work.

Julian Kane - Are you aware of a document that Boyle has - a Time Chart - there are apparent allegations.

Ralene Adler - I'm not under interrogation here. I don't know what they have.

Julian Kane - You can get help from the previous Treasurer. I want to point out this Library is the pearl of this community ruined by all these new people who took over this Library.

Valerie Feinman - What is going on here? Why are you all protesting so much? Let the Board go on with their work.

Doris Salzburg - It's very strange to go to the State.

Jack Eber - I would like to hear from the Board.

Dolly Relkin, Trustee - I listened to Ralene's reasons for sending this letter, and am supporting a Board member.

Arthur Lerner, Trustee - Am supporting a Board member and voting yes.

Jo Ann Farley - Vote yes - there's nothing to hide

Steven Glaser - Will support the Board. There's no witch hunt here. Historically it's the public that usually does that. Financial controls are a good thing. Ask our accountants? It's a useful suggestion, but not good. It's asking them to comment on their own work. We ought to have these reports that the Comptroller can give. You shouldn't look at it unfavorably.

After the vote, Karen Rubin asked why Steve Glaser wasn't proposed for Treasurer. Ralene Adler responded she has the time available and can fulfill the job, especially with the help of Glaser and Lerner, and she has also been offered help of the past Treasurer. "I think I can do a wonderful job", she stated.

Michael Zarin - On resignations: The 3 people want to talk, (He insulted Arthur Lerner) Sit with a neutral party.

Arthur Lerner - objected to insult by Zarin.

Upon motion by Arthur Lerner, seconded by Dolly Relkin and unanimously approved, the meeting adjourned 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Dolly Relkin
Secretary