
**GREAT NECK LIBRARY
MINUTES OF THE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
SUNDAY, JANUARY 9, 2022, AT 2:00 P.M.**

A meeting of the Great Neck Library Board of Trustees was held on Sunday, January 9, 2022, via Zoom [Agenda attached]

The following Trustees were present constituting a quorum:

Weihua Yan – President
Liman Mimi Hu – Vice President
Barry Smith – Secretary
Kathleen Gold – Treasurer
Scott Sontag – Assistant Treasurer
Josephine Mairzadeh – Trustee

Also Present: Denise Corcoran – Director
Steven Kashkin – Business Manager
Stephen Martir – Bee Ready Law
Donald Panetta – Trustee-elect

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Trustee Hu at 2:24 p.m.

RETENTION OF GREENBERG TRAUIG, LLP

Upon motion by Trustee Gold, seconded by Trustee Mairzadeh,

WHEREAS, the Board’s General Counsel cannot appropriately represent the Board due to the conflict amongst Board members, and

WHEREAS, the Board needs to immediately obtain outside counsel for the defense of the matter in Barry Smith et al v Great Neck Library et al (Index No. 600032/2022); and

WHEREAS, the Board determines that any delay of advice of counsel could be harmful to this Board and the Library and could damage its position in pending litigation; and

WHEREAS, this presents an emergency which is not subject to the procurement policy requiring a RFP and three written bids; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Great Neck Library Board of Trustees authorizes the immediate retention of Greenberg Traurig, LLP for defense of the matter in Barry Smith

et al v Great neck Library et al (Index No. 600032/2022) and authorizes Liman Mimi Hu to execute any documents necessary for the retention of Greenberg Traurig, LLP.

VOTE: Yes – 5 (Yan, Hu, Gold, Sontag, Mairzadeh)

Recuse – 1 (Smith)

MOTION CARRIED

Comment: Trustee Smith said that the vote was totally illegal. He urged the board to follow the bylaws and policy regarding public meetings.

Stephen Martir, General Counsel - Bee Ready Law, announced that Trustee Smith must recuse himself from discussing this matter and any and all actions regarding this matter as he is the direct plaintiff in this matter.

Trustee Smith acknowledged Mr. Martir's comments. He continued that although he understands there is an exception to the procurement policy bidding requirements when there is an emergency, he understands that counsel for the plaintiffs in the litigation has offered a procedure that renders mute (sic) any claim of an emergency. He submits that the board has a fiscal responsibility to abide by the procurement policy credited requirement in retaining counsel.

Mr. Martir said that the board determined today that any delay in the advice of counsel could be harmful to the board and could damage the library's position in the pending litigation and this presents an emergency which is not subject to the procurement policy.

Trustee Smith stated that per the board policy manual section 400-70 substantial expenditure of cost more than \$7500 shall require solicitation of a minimum of three written quotations further these need to be vetted by the board. He added that there is no cost associated with this.

Mr. Martir advised Trustee Smith to recuse himself from this matter since he is the direct plaintiff in this matter. He noted that in that same policy Trustee Smith is quoting it says "Included amongst those items which are not subject to the above provisions are expenditures relating to emergencies..." He said that the board made a motion and determined there is an emergency and the board has adjourned the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:31 pm on a motion by Trustee Hu and seconded by Trustee Mairzadeh.

Respectfully submitted,

Liman Mimi Hu
Vice President, Board of Trustees