

**MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE TOWN OF PELHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY**

530 Colonial Avenue
Pelham, NY 10803
December 5, 2012
7:30 p.m.

Board Members Present:

Margaret Young, Steve Swanson, Anne Calder, Peter Monaco, Paul Osmolskis, and Everett Potter.

Also Present: Library Director Patricia Perito, Town liaison Dan McLaughlin, and Friends Co-President Sue Simpson.

Not present: Jack Kaufmann, Sandy Angevine, Jenny Del Re, and Robert Parisi.

Minutes

The minutes of the November 14, 2012, meeting were approved.

Financial Reports

Library Director Patricia Perito said the expense for the electrical work undertaken after Hurricane Sandy to rewire the emergency generator would be reflected under Building Maintenance & Repairs on the financial statement (it is not included on the current financial statement). As discussed at the previous meeting, the funds for that expense are likely to come from the fund balance.

The amount spent so far for the roofing project is \$64,800.

Town liaison Dan McLaughlin noted that unlike other Town entities, the Library receives the full budgeted allocation, whether that money is spent or not.

The board discussed options to rectify the situation, including refunding the surplus in January or reflecting the amount in the following year's budget.

The finance committee will study the question.

The monthly financials were approved.

Regarding next year's budget, the Town approved an allocation of \$538,000, as opposed to the \$543,000 requested, with a 3 percent salary increase for library employees, as opposed to the 2 percent increase that was proposed in the library's budget submission.

With the added payroll and benefits expense and the increase in the Westchester Library System fee, there is a \$12,300 shortfall. Library president Margaret Young said that without significant cuts or other revenue, that means we can't afford to hire a communications consultant (the proposed budget for that was \$12,000). However, she would like to find a way to have a consultant.

Friends co-president Sue Simpson said the Friends made more than \$84,000 on Novel Night, an increase over 2010. Some features worked better than others: the DJ was well-received, while reaction to the silent-auction bidding devices was mixed.

Pelham Library Minutes approved 120512

She said that the feeling on the Friends board is quite strong to spend the money the group raises, rather than have it invested in CDs. She believes there would be support for using Friends funds to pay for a communications consultant.

President's Report

Margaret reviewed the 2011 WLS member statistics. Out of 38 WLS libraries, we rank 35th in number of hours open and public support per capita. However, our circulation increase ranked fifth in the system and our increase in book stock ranked fourth. On programming, we ranked 29th in number of programs.

The statistics on a variety of operating benchmarks indicate we are well-managed, she said.

Also, we are active users of the WLS network; we loaned out half the number of items that we borrowed.

Regarding public support, the Town increase of 4.5 percent in its support from 2010 to 2011 ranked 8th among WLS members; 15 libraries experienced a decrease in public support.

Finally, she noted that 71 percent of the material that's borrowed is borrowed by Pelham residents. In this category, we rank 23rd.

Building and Grounds Committee

Peter Monaco said that the work on the roof was delayed by Hurricane Sandy, but the contractor is very close to being finished.

Tricia said there has been very little interference with the library's operation as a result of the roof project.

Margaret said she believes the contractor has performed well given the roofing work that has been available in the wake of Sandy.

Regarding attic insulation, Paul Osmolskis said the existing bid needs to be revised.

Peter said he would like to have a Building and Grounds meeting to introduce new trustee Carl Pannuti and acquaint him with the building. Ideally, the meeting would include representatives from the Town.

Director's Report

Tricia reported that the grant application was submitted to Lifetime Arts for the Creative Aging program. The proposal was for \$2,500 for eight sessions in spring 2013.

Two new services started in December through WLS: Freegal (an e-music service) and Freading (a new e-book service). Freading is in addition to Overdrive.

WLS has also subscribed to the adult collection of an e-audiobook collection, OneClickDigital, and the library system has a new catalog that searches more like Google.

All developments point to a big increase in mobile-based applications, Tricia said.

Other Business

Margaret extended thanks to Peter Monaco, who was attending his last meeting. She noted that during his time on the board, he had been instrumental in a number of successful capital projects, including the remediation of flooding in the basement, the new presentation room, the new roof, and the main reading room lighting project.

The board reviewed the resume for Carl Pannuti, who has 16 years of heavy construction experience and is a site project manager for New York City's Department of Environmental Protection. The board approved submitting his nomination as trustee to the Town Board.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Next meeting: The next regular meeting of the Town of Pelham Public Library Board of Trustees will be Wednesday, January 9, 2012, at 7:30 p.m.