

Middletown Public Library Board of Trustees

Minutes of Meeting – Jan. 20 2015

Middletown Public Library

700 West Main Road

Middletown, Rhode Island

Members Present: Steve Arendt, Chair; Ernest Gibbons; Lucie-Anne Dionne-Thomas; Susan Hester; Ellrony Williams; Sally Gauch

Other(s) Present: Theresa Coish, Library Director

Member Absent: Robert Crump

Other(s) Absent: Sue Connor, Candise Pruitt, Barbara VonVillas, Town Council liaison to the library

--Meeting called to order at 7:06 p.m. by Steve Arendt, Chair.

Enter executive session; return to open session at 8:12 p.m.

Motion to seal minutes of Executive Session: Gauch Second: Gibbons Unanimously carried. The Board's consensus was that this motion in open session to seal the Executive Session minutes excludes the following action:

During the course of the Executive Session, a motion was made,

seconded, and carried to approve revision to the health care plan for the director as the director has recommended. This includes the director signing up for both Medicare in May of 2015 upon her 65th birthday and supplemental insurance through her former employer. The cost to the town would be reduced from approximately \$6,000 per year to approximately \$2083 per year for the cost of the director's coverage.

Disposition of Minutes:

--Minutes of Dec.11, 2014 meeting were reviewed. Motion to accept: Gauch Second: Gibbons. Unanimously carried.

Correspondence received: Middletown Historical Society head William Neiderman sent a thank you to the library for becoming a lifetime member of the society; he included a membership card with the correspondence.

Director's progress and financial reports on the library: Theresa Coish orally reviewed information provided in her Director's Report. In addition, the Filipino American association has been meeting at library and the association donated \$100 to the library. Also, donations in memory of Nancy Corkery are now at \$170. The annual meeting of the Friends will take place on March 6 at Portofino Restaurant in Middletown. John Parillo will be speaking on the history

of Middletown with a focus on the colonial period.

**Motion to accept Director's Report: Dionne-Thomas Second: Gauch.
Unanimously carried.**

Committee reports:

--Budget Committee: No report. Budget committee awaiting line item amounts from the town then budget committee will meet. Plan is to present total package to the full board at March meeting.

--Contract Negotiations: No report. Executive Session held this date focused on preparing for upcoming contract negotiations.

--Director's Evaluation: No report.

--Friends Liaison: No more to report than was mentioned earlier in the minutes.

--Policy Review: No report.

Unfinished Business: Town solicitor's decision regarding letter of agreement for use of building space for Friends Bookstore is still pending.

New Business: New fund will need to be created to deposit moneys

from Grossman bequest. Board will make decisions on how to use money. Deputy Finance Director Marc Tanguay said there are new accounting rules and that a new special revenue fund should be established which the Town Council will need to approve. The Town Council would be the ultimate authority on setting up fund not on how the money would be spent. Board will not decide how to spend until the Town Council establishes a fund.

Motion to request Town Council to establish a new fund to deposit proceeds from the Grossman bequest: Gauch Second: Williams. Unanimously carried.

Legislative agenda: there was a request made for the return of the 25% municipal appropriation provided for in the RI Grant in Aid formula. Senator DiPalma, Rep. Ruggiero and Rep. Reilley were at the meeting at Town Hall that began at 6 p.m. on January 20, 2015. Rep. Abney was not there. All 4 of these legislators are on their respective finance committees. Currently the library is only recouping 22.24% not 25%. This appears to be because the state library agency, Office of Library Information Services, needs to be fully funded and salaries of the top officers of that organization consume a substantial part of that organization's budget. Town Council wants the law followed.

Public presentation to or discussion with the Board: None.

Announcements:

--The next regularly scheduled Board meeting will take place on Tuesday, February 17, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. at the Library.

--Motion to adjourn: Dionne-Thomas Second: Hester Unanimously carried

Meeting adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

Lucie-Anne Dionne-Thomas

Secretary