

**MINUTES**  
**SPECIAL MEETING LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**Monday, April 20, 2020**

**Roll Call (on Zoom): Meeting began at 7:45**

**Present:** Sheila Sterling, Anne Sullivan, Eileen Gabrielle, Miriam Yu, Susan Jung, Jim Lessersohn, Joe Colella, Eric Mangol, Claire Beslow, John Trause

**Absent:**

**1. New Business**

A. Sheila made a statement discussing the possible furlough of part-time Desk Assistants and Pages, because the Library has been closed since March 13, 2020 at 3:00 p. m. We have continued to pay these part-time employees since that time. Given our limited budget and our concern about finances going forward because of the COVID-19 crisis, it is prudent for the Board to consider furloughing those employees who are not presently able to work at the Library because it is closed.

**II. Public Portion**

- A. Mary-Margaret Carter – Desk Assistant. Concerned that the decision had already been made.
- B. George Materon – Did this decision come from the town or is this a decision that the Board is making by itself?
- C. Elaine Franek Materon – Desk Assistant. The budget already has been accounted for, so the money is already been allocated. Council Liaison Miriam Yu explained that the municipal budget for this year has not, actually, been finalized yet. John clarified the difference between the Borough's budget and the Library's proposed budget, which is a line or two in the municipal budget.
- D. Alexis Abssy – Desk Assistant on both floors (Junior Room and adult). She has been speaking with a friend who works for the Paramus Public Library; their budget has already been passed, so everyone is being paid. She is concerned because her husband is not working and she has been furloughed from her other job, so these monies are very important to her. Jim explained that we, technically, have been working without a budget since January 1, 2020. The Library should be getting its next appropriation from the Borough on May 1, 2020, but we do not know if we will be getting what we had been expecting.
- E. George Materon – Asked if BCCLS makes such decisions for all of the libraries; John explained that each Library works independently. George asked what other libraries are doing. Hackensack and Bergenfield furloughed even their full-time staff (except for the Directors). Right now, other libraries and their Boards are in discussion over payroll. There are four streams of avenue for libraries—Borough (which makes up 97%) of library revenue, State (only \$3000 and change that comes in October), fines (we have had none since the middle of March) and Grants / Donations (we are not able to apply for any right now). We used to receive net lending reimbursement revenue from BCCLS, but the formula has changed, so the amount our Library receives is now appreciably less.
- F. Lynne Page – Desk Assistant. Asked if there are other part-time employees in the town being furloughed, but Miriam explained that it has not been done yet; other question- when Library is reopened, will the employees be asked to return or will they be let go. Sheila answered that we hope that when the Library reopens (which we hope will be soon) that everyone come back to work at the Library

- G. Joe Colella asked a question- thought he read that municipal employees are being let go so that they can be paid unemployment; Miriam said that Joe's information is not correct as far as she knows
- H. Teresa Cullen – Desk Assistant. Asked if this (furloughing part-time Desk Assistants and Pages) goes ahead, when would it start? Sheila said that we will talk about that in closed session
- I. Andrea Sisti – Desk Assistant – Asked if full-timer employees would be next for consideration of furloughing? Is that where we are doing? Sheila explained that the work of the Desk Assistants and Pages is within the building, checking in/out and shelving materials, whereas the full-time employees are, in fact, going in and working many hours both in the library and at home. John explained that the work of some of the other employees lends itself better to working from home. Andrea would be happy to help out in the Library if help is needed.
- J. Alexis Abssy – Desk Assistant. She would appreciate us not being one of the first libraries in BCCLS or the rest of the State to eliminate part-timer Desk Assistants and Pages.
- K. Elaine Franek Materon – Desk Assistant. Asked if there is any way to get the State to approve the budget; Miriam explained that the State has pushed back the date for the Borough's budget. We are a line-item in the Borough's budget; the Borough still needs to have its budget approved, and it has not yet been submitted to the State. Salaries (compensation) is 73% of our budget.

III. Closed session (CB, EG) – The vote by roll call was unanimous.

IV. Return to open session: We are going to table the discussion for another day pending further information (CB, EG) – The vote by roll call was unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 (JL, AS) – The vote by roll call was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,  
Claire Beslow