

**Hamilton Township Free Public Library Board of Trustees Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday, June 27, 2022 5:00 p.m. in Room 2 of the Library.** This public meeting is taking place in accordance with the NJ Open Public Meetings Act. All meetings of this group will be audio recorded.

**Members Present:** Mr. Santamaria, Mr. Atkin, Mr. Cimino, Ms. DeAngelo, Ms. Kerlin, Ms. Rogers, Ms. Tonti, and Library Director, Mr. Chianese  
**Members Absent:** Mr. Gedeika

### **MONTHLY AGENDA ITEMS**

**Review and Consideration of the minutes of the May 23, 2022 regular meeting of the Board:** Approval of the May 23, 2022 minutes were moved by Ms. Rogers and seconded by Ms. Tonti.

**Voting Yea:** Mr. Santamaria, Mr. Atkin, Mr. Cimino, Ms. DeAngelo, Ms. Kerlin, Ms. Tonti

**Voting Nay:** none

**Abstain:** Ms. Rogers

**Members Absent:** Mr. Gedeika

**Motion passes**

**Consideration of the Treasurer's Report:** Approval of the June 2022 Treasurer's Report was moved by Ms. DeAngelo, seconded by Mr. Cimino.

**Voting Yea:** Mr. Santamaria, Mr. Atkin, Mr. Cimino, Ms. DeAngelo, Ms. Kerlin, Ms. Rogers, Ms. Tonti

**Voting Nay:** none

**Members Absent:** Mr. Gedeika

**Motion passes**

**Consideration of the Library Bill List:** Approval of the June 2022 Bill List was moved by Mr. Cimino, and seconded by Ms. Tonti.

**Voting Yea:** Mr. Santamaria, Mr. Atkin, Mr. Cimino, Ms. DeAngelo, Ms. Kerlin, Ms. Rogers, Ms. Tonti

**Voting Nay:** none

**Members Absent:** Mr. Gedeika

**Motion passes**

### **Director's Report:**

Mr. Chianese reported on recent and upcoming library business, activities and events, including:

- 2022 Proposed Library Budget
- Hamilton Township annual administrative fee
- in-house savings on maintenance
- annual e-rate award
- return of the Museum Pass Program
- "What's it Worth" Event in July
- Rain Garden Rejuvenation - with thanks to volunteers from the Hamilton Township Environmental Commission.

- Children's programming
- Staff Retirements/Promotions

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Mr. Santamaria reported on the Board's committee to review the library policies:

- Mr. Santamaria noted concern with the current policies' language regarding banning weapons in the library, and noted the committee would review the language in light of a recent U.S. Supreme Court decision.
- Mr. Santamaria asked the Board for input on the Library's fine structure for overdue materials, as the policies committee was not in agreement, and read a statement into the record with his thoughts on retaining the current fine structure. (See Attachment 1)
- The proposal to eliminate overdue fines was discussed by the board, with input from Mr. Chianese.
- Mr. Cimino made a motion to recommend that the policy committee develop language to eliminate overdue fines for late materials as a 1 year pilot project. The motion was seconded by Ms. Tonti.

**Voting Yea:** Mr. Santamaria (with reservation), Mr. Atkin, Mr. Cimino, Ms. DeAngelo, Ms. Kerlin, Ms. Rogers, Ms. Tonti

**Voting Nay:** none

**Members Absent:** Mr. Gedeika

**Motion passes**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Resolution 22-010, FY2022 Final Budget Approval.** With the final figures from the State and the Township, the final 2022 budget was presented. The motion was moved by Mr. Cimino, and seconded by Ms. Tonti. The Board discussed the need and options to seek funding for capital improvements, such as the restrooms.

**Voting Yea:** Mr. Santamaria, Mr. Atkin, Mr. Cimino, Ms. DeAngelo, Ms. Kerlin, Ms. Rogers, Ms. Tonti

**Voting Nay:** none

**Members Absent:** Mr. Gedeika

**Motion passes**

**Resolution 22-011, Administrative Services Fee.** A motion to accept the 2022 Township administrative fee was moved by Ms. DeAngelo, and seconded by Ms. Tonti.

**Voting Yea:** Mr. Santamaria, Mr. Atkin, Mr. Cimino, Ms. DeAngelo, Ms. Kerlin, Ms. Rogers, Ms. Tonti

**Voting Nay:** none

**Members Absent:** Mr. Gedeika

**Motion passes**

**Resolution 22-012, Retirement of Maureen Neville.** Mr. Santamaria read a resolution commending Ms. Neville on her service to the library and wishing her well in her retirement. Mr. Atkin shared kind words about Ms. Neville. The motion was moved by Mr. Atkin, and seconded by Ms. Rogers.

**Voting Yea:** Mr. Santamaria, Mr. Atkin, Mr. Cimino, Ms. DeAngelo, Ms. Kerlin, Ms. Rogers, Ms. Tonti

**Voting Nay:** none

**Members Absent:** Mr. Gedeika

**Motion passes**

### **OLD BUSINESS**

The Board continues to revisit the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on library operations each month, reviewing local data, and the most recent guidance from the CDC and local authorities. Mr. Atkin shared updated information regarding new sub-variants, and questioned the possibility of requiring masks in specific areas of the library. No motion was made. The Board will continue, as decided and resolved at the February 2022 meeting, to follow CDC Community Levels Guidelines, which continue to show Mercer County, NJ at a "Medium" Community Level.

Mr. Santamaria read into the record a proposed letter on behalf of the Board to Governor Phil Murphy, requesting that libraries be included in any pending action limiting the carrying of guns in public spaces. (See attached) Mr. Atkin made a motion to approve the letter, the motion was seconded by Mr. Cimino.

**Voting Yea:** Mr. Santamaria, Mr. Atkin, Mr. Cimino, Ms. DeAngelo, Ms. Kerlin, Ms. Rogers, Ms. Tonti

**Voting Nay:** none

**Members Absent:** Mr. Gedeika

**Motion passes**

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Rodney Richards  
4 Village Drive

Mr. Richards questioned recycling in the building, applauded the Board for the letter to the Governor, thanked the Board members for looking into the renovation of the Library restrooms, and commended Mr. Chianese and the library staff for their help with the rain garden. Mr. Richards asked how to access the library budget.

Carol Hawkes  
31 Brockton Road

Ms. Hawkes suggested that the Board announce at the start of each meeting that there will be time for public comment in the agenda.

Linda Kourcounakis  
2611 Liberty Street

Ms. Kourcounakis noted the unavailability of multiple computer stations, and asked that the Library address the issue.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Hearing no more business, at 6:41 pm, Mr. Cimino moved that the Board move into Executive Session to hear personnel matters. The motion was seconded by Mr. Atkin.

**ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING**

Returning to the regular session, and hearing no more business, Mr. Cimino moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:48 pm. The next Board of Trustees meeting will be held on Monday, July 25, 2022, at 5:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Renee Rogers  
Secretary