

Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Free Public Library of the Borough of Longport

July 28, 2022 5:00 PM

Call to Order: President Roy Law called the meeting to order at 5:01 PM.

Announcement of Compliance with Open Public Meetings Law: This meeting is called pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Law. Notice of this meeting was advertised in the Press of Atlantic City on July 25, 2022 and sent to the Current on July 21, 2022. Notice of this meeting was also posted on the Library's website and in Longport Borough Hall. Official action may be taken at this meeting.

Recording of Attendance: President Roy Law, Treasurer Patricia English, Secretary Erin Schiavo, Member Kate Subranni, Member Damen Tomassi, Mayor Nick Russo, School Board President Carl Tripician, Library Director Ricky Gerhardt (all present for the meeting).

Absent: Dolores Wilson

Public Comment: none

New Business: President's Report: Roy Law initiated a discussion regarding The Library Board's involvement, financial and otherwise, in the Labor Day Fireworks Display. This discussion was initially prompted by an email sent to the Board Members from Mayor Russo. Roy referred to the email and provided some information, then asked for straw vote from members to determine if the Board needed to move forward with plans to be involved with this initiative. The straw vote was as follows:

Roy Law: no

Patricia English: no

Erin Schiavo: no

Kate Subranni: no

Damen Tomassi: yes

Joanne Clayton: no

Nick Russo: yes

Carl Tripician: yes

Members who voted 'yes' explained that the fireworks display would be a positive community event and would support the mission of the Library. It was discussed that other community members may also be able to contribute financially, and provide necessary manpower. Further discussion along these lines included the library making a donation, and not having any further responsibilities and liability.

Members who voted 'no' cited lack of proper timing as one concern, as well as confusion as to the role of the library throughout the process of preparing for the fireworks display. They expressed concern with this event, and that the budget would have to be amended.

After further discussion, Treasurer Trish English changed her vote to yes. Member Damen Tomassi asked to revisit the vote. Members were repolled and the vote stayed 4-4. Without a majority, the board was unable to motion to amend the agenda to move forward with the library having a role in the fireworks display.

At 5:35pm Kate Subranni made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Erin Schiavo seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed.