

TOWN OF CANTON, CONNECTICUT
CANTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SPECIAL MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 2011, 6:00 P.M.
MINUTES APPROVED MARCH 16, 2011

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. with Chair Lee Foley presiding. Trustees present: Marjorie Clarke, Walter Gillette, Bonita Hansen, and Michael Leonard. Trustees absent: Karen Berger, Richard Matos, Patricia McGarry, and David Owen. Also present: Library Director Robert Simon.

DISCUSSION OF BOARD OF SELECTMEN REQUEST REGARDING ADDITIONAL REVENUE: The Library Board was asked to review the budget to see if we could find \$5,000 or more to help offset the cost of a new half-time teen services librarian. The selectmen might then be willing to provide an additional \$10,000 to fund the position. Items the trustees discussed:

1. Raising fine, copier, and printing fees: This would not produce a lot of money and might make annoyed patrons choose to take their "business" elsewhere.
2. Networking the printers: This would reduce the number of printers in the library and perhaps the cost of supplies somewhat. The library would have to find technical help to make this happen. Also, printers might not be able to be networked because of age. At most, this would save perhaps \$1,000.
3. Replace fewer computers each year: The Library Board believes the rotation plan for computer replacement is a sound approach, but we could consider slowing the pace. This might save \$1,000.
4. Reducing current part-time staff hours: The library needs every hour the part time staff is scheduled for.
5. Reducing the book budget: The Board did not feel reducing this account, the very "life blood" of the library, was acceptable. Increased dependence on the Friends for what should be operating expenses for the library should be avoided.
6. Charging patrons for program attendance: It is against state statutes (11-24b.6) to charge for programs promoting literacy. If we charged for other programs, we'd be the only library in the state to do so. As an organization providing service to the town, this seems a bad idea.

Having reviewed the library budget, Board members concluded that it was a slim budget as originally presented to the Board of Selectmen and that we could not find the requested cuts without a severe negative impact on the current running of the library.

ADJOURNMENT: Upon a motion by Nita Hansen, the meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Marjorie Clarke
Secretary