

Franklin Township Library
Board of Trustees
Meeting Minutes
February 19, 2025

ANNOUNCEMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT- “In accordance with section 3 of the Open Public Meetings Act (P.L. 1975, c.231), the Chair declares that adequate public notice of this meeting has been posted at least 48 hours in advance on the Franklin Township Library’s website (www.ftlnj.org) and the Township of Franklin’s website (www.franklintownshipnj.org), The Sentinel of Gloucester County(Nov. 28, 2024), as well as the Community Bulletin Board.

CALL TO ORDER

D. Emmons, President, was present and called the meeting to order at 7:00pm

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

D. Emmons, President, led the Board in the flag salute.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

- B. Doherty
- D. Emmons
- M. Fiorella
- S. Keen
- C. Rupp
- K. Shover
- D. Unkow (Absent)
- J. Wilson (Absent)
- P. Robinson
- Cathie Helget (Library Assistant, filling in for Library Director)

FIRST PUBLIC PORTION

Motion: made to open the First Public Portion at 7:01pm by B. Doherty, seconded by P. Robinson. Motion carried unanimously.

Patron L. McBride talked to the Board about concerns around the books in the library collection and the direction the collection seems to be taking. She referenced the book ‘Let's Talk About It’ as she sent in a reconsideration form for the book. She also brought up that there are several other books she wants to bring to the library’s attention for reconsideration. Board president, D. Emmons, talked through the reconsideration policy and the next steps for an appeal, if needed

Motion: made to close the First Public Portion at 7:19pm by C. Rupp, seconded by K. Shover. Motion carried unanimously.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

- Minutes from January, 2025 Board Meeting

Motion: made to accept the Secretary's report by C. Rupp seconded by P. Robinson. Motion carried unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Motion: made to accept the Treasurer's report by S. Keen, seconded by K. Shover. Unanimous roll call approval.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT (SEE INSERT FOR FULL REPORT)

- Adult/Teen/Children programs
- Hotspots are now available to check out at the library
- April 12th will be the next book sale and donations are still being taken

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- The budget committee met to discuss the 2025 budget proposal.

OLD BUSINESS

- HVAC - The bid was approved during the last Twp. Committee meeting and they will begin work in a few weeks.
- Electric bill - Director reached out to the township regarding the outstanding ACE billing issues. No resolution has been provided and conversations are still ongoing.

NEW BUSINESS

- Email received from a patron regarding the hours listed versus when the library closes. The closing procedure policy was questioned and the policy committee will meet to review the policy and make appropriate recommendations for updates.
- The children's room heating has not been working the last few days. A technician was out and they are ordering the parts to complete the services needed to rectify the issue.

SECOND PUBLIC PORTION

Motion: made to open a Second Public Portion at 7:57pm by C. Rupp, seconded by P. Robinson. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion: made to close Second Public Portion at 7:57pm by C. Rupp, seconded by K. Shover. Motion carried unanimously.

CLOSED SESSION

Motion: made to open Closed Session at 7:57pm by C. Rupp, seconded by S. Keen. Motion carried unanimously.

- The board reviewed the proposed 2025 budget recommendations from the budget committee line by line.
- The board raised concerns around the following areas and decided to table the discussions until next month once those have been re-reviewed.
 - Furniture & Equipment
 - Repair & Maintenance

Motion: made to close Closed Session at 8:23pm by C. Rupp, seconded by S. Keen. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: made to adjourn the meeting at 8:26pm by C. Rupp, seconded by K. Shover. Motion carried unanimously.

The next regular meeting will be held on March 19, 2025, at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted by Stephanie Keen, Secretary.