October 11, 2023

The meeting of the Sparta Library Board of Trustees was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by President Amy DelCoro. Those in attendance included Mary Coe, Doreen Skok, Sally Bertellotti, Mark Beardmore, Mayor Dan Chiaiello, and David Costa, Library Director.

Approval of Minutes:

On motion by Sally Bertellotti, seconded by Mark Beardmore and carried, the minutes of September 13 2023 were approved as presented. Mary Coe abstained.

Presentation:

Phillip Berg of MAIN Library Alliance gave a presentation regarding the alliance, its mission and vision for the future. He went over the goals of a shared regional library system and the opportunities that it would provide such as improved financial sustainability and greater collaboration between integrated library systems while also maintaining individual library autonomy. Mr. Berg also went over the IT support systems for participating members. He stated that the Main Library Alliance provides libraries with cost savings on resources, supports training and services, and improves accessibility for patrons.

After the presentation, the Board discussed Mr. Berg's proposals and decided that the Library Director should seek more information and the topic would be brought up again at a future meeting.

Financial Report:

Dave Costa gave his financial report and handed out the recent audit report to the Board members. He stated that the auditors had commented that the Library needed to annually calculate any excess funds that might need to be transferred back to the municipality.

Director's Report:

Dave Costa gave his Director's Report and stated that Library Link NJ continued to provide good programming in support of libraries. He stated also that the budget numbers for 2024 were posted by the State on October 4th and it will be the largest budget that the library has ever had, along with the largest single year increase as well.

Public Portion:

No member of the public was present and this portion of the meeting was closed.

Unfinished Business:

Dave Costa gave an update on building projects. He stated that work needed to be done on the doors and bathrooms.

New Business:

On motion by Doreen Skok, seconded by Sally Bertellotti and unanimously carried, a resolution to approve the 2024 Holiday schedule was duly adopted.

Dave handed out a copy of the 2024 budget. He stated that it was almost the same as last years and would be brought up at the next Board meeting.

After discussion, there was Board consensus to allow residents to print a certain number of pages free of charge.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, on motion by Mark Beardmore, seconded by Mary Coe and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 5:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Coe, Secretary