Island Trees Public Library

BUDGET HEARING MEETING ONLY
(This was not a Board Meeting)
April 8, 2014

IN ATTENDANCE:
Ann Harris, Vice President
Jerry Schmotzer, Trustee
Salvatore Rinaldi, Trustee
Bill Fitzgerald, Trustee
Ann Boiallis, Board Secretary
Michele Vaccarelli, Director

ABSENT:
John Mikulin, With Excuse

CALL TO ORDER:
Salvatore Rinaldi called the meeting to order at 8:00m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:
Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Discussion on 2014/2015 Proposed Budget:
Salvatore Rinaldi supplied a line by line comparison report of all the categories for the 2014-2015 Proposed Budget.

Questions / Concerns from the Public on the 2014/2015 Proposed Budget:

Public: What is Counsel bill and is it based on lawsuits?
Trustee’s response: The Counsel bill is fees paid to our lawyer. Our lawyer provides us with legal counsel on all matters. The Library has put aside monies for our attorney’s contract. We are anticipating that we will have to defend ourselves with the current issue with the School Board. That is the reason why the increase in the Counsel category.

Public: There is a decrease in Periodicals & Newspapers. This is a more realistic amount of what we have spent.
Trustee’s response: That is correct.
Public: There is a decrease in Periodicals & Newspapers, this is a more realistic amount of what we have spent?
Trustee’s response: That is correct. The Library is constantly looking at what is being requested and what is just staying on our shelves.
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Public: Why is there video games?
Trustee's response: We have the video games because some of our parents and children want them. The Library tries to have a variety of video games since there are many types of consoles and games out there. We offer “E” rated games, not violent games which are geared towards children. There is definitely a demand for this line item.

The Patron who questioned the above items, expressed his appreciation and thanks to our Library staff who have been very supportive and helpful to him.

Public: Has the Library given any more consideration to getting a full time Young Adult (Y/A) Librarian? That whole area has suffered so much and the Library has lost a lot of the teens that use to come into our Library. Some of the Y/A are seeking out other Libraries. We are really doing that age group a big disservice. The prior Y/A Librarian not only handled the Y/A portion, she also handled the data bases, computer information, and also different aspects of the Library business that are now farmed out to part timers, who are only at the Library 1 day a week or 1 1/2 days. These part timers are now working with the patrons and do not have time to dedicate to those areas that they should be attending to.
Trustee's response: This request will be taken under consideration. Unfortunately with the budget constraints that we are under, we are unable to get everything that we would like.

Public: But we had a full time Young Adult Librarian. Also when 1 librarian takes a day off or if they are sick, there is only 1 librarian - then they have to find a part timer – it’s not easy to get coverage. This now affects the service that is being provided for all of the Patrons coming in.
Trustee's response: I would like to hear what the Director has to say regarding this.

Director: This does happen often. When we are looking for coverage, we have to find a part time Librarian who may be working at another location or working in retail. It is really hard to get the coverage. There is a lot of juggling when someone calls in sick, and now we are looking at people who want to take vacation time. I think we do need another full time Librarian.

Trustee’s response: How will this affect our Budget?
Director: You have to think what the salary would be, whether it should be a I or II. I think it should be a I Librarian, would benefits be offered to this person.

Trustee’s response: It’s been a year now, missing this full time Librarian. Now it is a strain. In the beginning, everyone worked it out, now it is becoming a permanent strain on the employees.
Public: Regarding Custodial Supplies, it isn’t a big decrease but there is a $900 decrease. It seems that lately the ordering of custodial supplies have been cut down.  
Director’s response: We had budgeted $6,000 for the year and have only spent 45% of this figure. In addition, this winter there was a lot of money spent on salt and we still have $3,288 left to spend in the upcoming 3 months. This is the reason it was felt that we could decrease the custodial supplies line item.

Public: Concerning Health Insurance, the Library has 2 full time and 6 part time employees.  
Trustee’s response: Yes.  
Public: Who participates in health insurance? Everyone participates or just the full time employees?  
Trustee’s response: Full time employees have the opportunity, but not everyone does participate.  
Public: How much does an employee contribute?  
Trustee’s response: Individuals is 10%, family is a higher amount. At this time, no one has used the family insurance.

Public: Change to the Newsletter – actual amount is $6,912 and now it is $12,200, reason for this?  
Trustee’s response: There was another mailing or two due to the School Board circumstances. Each mailing costs approximately $2,500.  
Public: I would like to see a couple more mailings.  
Director’s response: It was proposed to the Directors that rather than sending a newsletter every 3 months, we would like to now send out a newsletter 6 times a year (every 2 months). With the newsletter going out every 2 months, the price would still come under our budget with getting estimates from the company who does our printing. Starting October the newsletter will go out every 2 months.

Budget Vote: The Budget Vote is on Tuesday, April 22, 2014 from 1pm to 9pm. This would be for the Budget and the Trustee  
Public: How many voters actually come to vote?  
Trustee’s response: It varies from year to year.  
Juliet Feeley’s response: Between high 200 to 300.  
Trustee’s response: There is about 12,000 registered voters in the School District, maybe more. We have a very low turnout for our Budget Vote.
Salvatore Rinaldi thanked everyone for coming out tonight to our Budget Hearing Meeting. If anyone has any questions, please feel free to contact any of the Board Members, or the Library Director is always available.

ADJOURNMENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Salvatore Rinaldi asked for a Motion. Bill Fitzgerald asked for a Motion to adjourn the April 8, 2014 Budget Hearing Meeting. Jerry Schmozer made a seconded the Motion to adjourn the Budget Hearing Meeting. All in favor. Unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 8:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann L. Boiallis

Secretary to the Board of Trustees

/alb