

## **Library Board Minutes**

January 9, 2017 (Amended)  
Bethlehem Area Public Library

President Thomas Nolan called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ATTENDING: City – Jane Gill, Olga Negrón, Cathy Reuscher,  
Emil Signes, Marie Sterlein, Sharon Yoshida, Julie Zumas  
Bethlehem Township – Janet Barry, Thomas Nolan  
Fountain Hill – Annamarie Jordan  
Hanover Township – Jack Nagle

Staff – Josh Berk, Liza Holzinger, Erin Poore  
Other – Terence Faul (King, Spry, Herman, Freund & Faul), Elyse  
Geyer (Buckno Lisicky)

The result of the election of the officers for the 2017 Board is as follows:

President – Cathy Reuscher  
Vice-President – Jane Gill  
Treasurer – Tom Nolan  
Secretary – Annamarie Jordan

The December minutes were approved in a motion made by Marie Sterlein, seconded by Sharon Yoshida, and passed unanimously.

### **DIRECTOR'S ORAL REPORT:**

1. Director Berk reported that the South Side Branch has new hours and is again open on Mondays. He heard from Bethlehem Area School District Superintendent Roy who expressed his enthusiasm and support for the impact that the increased hours will have on students.
2. Governor Tom Wolf is coming to the Main Library on January 11 for meetings with public officials and business leaders.

### **REPORTS:**

1. City of Bethlehem – Sharon Yoshida reported on Friends of the Library activities. Committees are beginning work on this year's fundraiser, *April in Paris*, scheduled for April 25.
2. Bethlehem Township – Tom Nolan reported that Bethlehem Township Commissioners is considering having a referendum on the ballot for a special tax for library service. Two township residents, John Merhottein and Victoria Bastidas, made suggestions to highlight library service in the Township (a longer Bookmobile

stop at the community center, a book return in the Township, more programs, and installing computers at the community center).

3. Fountain Hill – none
4. Hanover Township – Jack Nagle requested a survey to determine how many residents use the library from each community. He would also like the Bookmobile schedule adjusted to eliminate stops and add more time at the community center.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Thomas Nolan questioned the library's share of the utility bills. Director Berk explained that the increased cost is because of a multi-million dollar loan to the City to upgrade equipment including energy-saving materials. Our current savings in energy costs is going toward the loan payment. The loan is up in 2026 and our bill will drop accordingly.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Thomas Nolan informed the Board that the library may be in violation of the State Library Code because we exceed the maximum number of Board members allowed. Attorney Terry Faul stated that the Library Board formation predated the Library Code and therefore might not have to adhere to the regulation. Director Berk noted we have never been cited by the State even though they yearly receive our data. A motion to have Terry Faul do more research on the issue was made by Thomas Nolan, seconded by Emil Signes, and passed unanimously.

Emil Signes made a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. The next meeting date is February 13.

Respectfully submitted,

Liza Holzinger, Staff