

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER:   E.1.  



Buffalo & Erie County Public Library Board of Trustees  
Executive Committee Meeting Report  
March 11, 2021

Present via Zoom: Executive Committee Chair Kathleen Berens Bucki; Vice Chair Kimberly Johnson; members Sheldon Berlow and Elaine Panty; and ex-officio members Frank Housh and Ted Johnson. Chief Financial Officer (C.F.O.) Ken Stone and Chief Operating Officer (C.O.O.) Jeannine Doyle also participated via Zoom.

In keeping with Executive Order 202.95 issued February 22, 2021 which extends previous Executive Orders regarding emergency adjustments to the Open Meetings Law in response to the COVID-19 pandemic through March 24, 2021, this meeting was offered remotely via Zoom. As required by the Governor's Order, the public had the ability to listen to the proceeding via Zoom, and the meeting was recorded, transcribed, and made available on the Library's website. This information was included in the meeting announcement.

Chair Bucki called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m. After a call of the roll, it was noted that a quorum was present.

Chair Bucki relayed Library Director Mary Jean Jakubowski is a finalist for the ATHENA Leadership Award. The awards ceremony is being held virtually on April 28<sup>th</sup> and tickets are \$10. Information on the event will be forwarded to all trustees.

The Executive Committee reviewed the proposed agenda for the March 18, 2021 B&ECPL Board of Trustees meeting. C.F.O. Stone reviewed proposed Resolution 2021-3 – Erie County 2022-2027 Capital Project Request Guidance. He noted Capital Budget instructions have not yet been received from Erie County, but requests are typically due at the beginning of April. He described the 3 projects being recommended for the Central Library, and noted it could be a good time to request design for major infrastructure projects due to the potential to utilize other sources of grant funding for construction. He further conveyed the monthly financials for December indicated the B&ECPL remained within budget for 2020.

C.F.O. Stone reported the Central Library had experienced a power failure this morning at around 5:45 a.m., due to a failure of both National Grid lines that run into the building. Power was restored at approximately 7:45 a.m. He also reported construction crews had experienced a water main break at the Crane Branch Library in the course of their demolition; the building was already closed to the public due to the construction.

Chair Bucki relayed the Ad Hoc Committee had met the day before, on March 10<sup>th</sup>, and had agreed on a resolution to address Library Administration compensation. The resolution will be brought before the full Board for a vote next week.

Trustee Housh reported he had received a call from John Craik about joining the Board of Trustees. Mr. Craik is up for appointment to fill the vacant position previously held by Dr. Rhonda Ricks. Chair Bucki indicated she looks forward to welcoming him.

C.O.O. Doyle reported the *Black Doll Exhibit* had opened at the Central Library on February 25<sup>th</sup> and is extremely popular; patrons have indicated they are visiting the library specifically to see the exhibit. Members of Library Administration have been active in the news media lately. This Saturday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, Assistant Deputy Director Dorinda Darden will be the guest on Erie County Clerk Mickey Kearns' radio show. B&ECPL administration and staff have also been participating in library advocacy events with State representatives over the past couple months. C.O.O. Doyle indicated she always emphasized opportunities for collaboration at these events, encouraging legislators to think of the library when they have new initiatives.

C.O.O. Doyle reported the Association of Contracting Library Trustees (ACT) had met on March 10<sup>th</sup>, but she had not yet received any information about the meeting to report.

The public had no comment.

Chair Bucki noted Resolution 2021-5 under New Business. C.O.O. Doyle explained the resolution would approve the B&ECPL Public Health Emergency Operations Plan (Plan), which is now required under New York State Labor Law. This Plan was developed by Director Jakubowski, and, as per the Law, a draft version of the Plan was submitted for review/comment by unions representing B&ECPL employees. These comments have been received and changes incorporated into the Plan. The Plan must be approved and on file by April 1<sup>st</sup>.

After review, the Committee had no changes for the proposed agenda.

C.F.O. Stone provided a further budget update, noting that of the 20% of State Library Aid withheld in 2020, NYLA has indicated that the full amount will be restored. The B&ECPL has received fully restored Local Library Services Aid, so C.F.O. Stone is optimistic that this may be the case. If all withheld funding is restored, it would equate to over \$500,000 for the B&ECPL.

Trustee Panty asked whether the Crane Branch Library Construction Project is affected by the restoration of State Aid. C.F.O. Stone indicated that State Aid for Library Construction had not been affected by the withheld funding, and that Phases 1 and 2 of the project remain fully funded.

With no further business to discuss, the Executive Committee meeting adjourned at 4:23 p.m. on a motion by Trustee Berlow and a second by Trustee K. Johnson.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Johnson  
Vice Chair