

## **Wethersfield Library Board Minutes of Special Meeting of January 31, 2008**

**Members present:** Paul Courchaine, Greg Curtin, Tracy Gionfriddo, Susan Grady, Clare Meade, Brad Milvae, Pauline Moon

**Members excused:** Greg Bedula, Howard Greenblatt

**Staff present:** Laurel Goodgion, director; Liz Kirkpatrick, asst. director

**Others present:** Bonnie Therrien, town manager; John Cascio, council liaison

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Curtin called the meeting to order at 7:05.

At 7:06 Paul Courchaine moved to go into executive session. Polly Moon seconded. The motion carried.

At 7:22 Paul Courchaine moved to come out of executive session. Tracy Gionfriddo seconded. The motion carried.

Susan Grady moved to utilize no more than \$800 of Library funds to hire Life Skills Associates LLC to facilitate communication between the Library administration and union membership. Paul Courchaine seconded the motion. The motion carried.

At 7:24 Bonnie Therrien left; John Cascio arrived.

At 7:25 Clare Meade arrived.

### **PROPOSED LIBRARY OPERATING BUDGET FOR 2008-2009**

Paul Courchaine of the Finance Committee thanked Laurel for her hard work in putting the budget together. He highlighted some changes from previous budgets. One is the expansion of teen services with a position totaling 20 hours a week. Other costs were identified relevant to the renovation. The renovated Library will occupy three floors. The Library has never been that spread out before. This will mean larger increases in personnel, custodial service, and security.

The Finance Committee is recommending a per capita materials request of \$6 in next year's budget, up from \$5.34 this year, which is up from \$5.19 last year, when the Wethersfield Library ranked 10th when compared with 10 other libraries and their expenditures for materials.

Council liaison John Cascio suggested presenting the budget in a different way, perhaps with a PowerPoint presentation. He said to stress the fact that, even in its reduced state, the Library is very functional, the staff provides excellent service, and the numbers of patrons is steady and increasing. He added that the presentation should include Wethersfield's standing within its erg (grouping of libraries in municipalities with characteristics similar to those of Wethersfield) and should emphasize dollar amounts rather than percentages.

At 7:26 Tracy Gionfriddo left.

Clare Meade moved to accept the proposed budget for next year as presented. Brad Milvae seconded. The motion carried.

At 7:47 Brad Milvae moved to adjourn. Paul Courchaine seconded. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Grady  
Secretary