

**MILFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
REGULAR MEETING  
APRIL 4, 2012  
(draft)**

Board President, Mr. Peter Vita called the regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Milford Public Library to order at 7:40 pm on April 4, 2012.

**PRESENT**

Mr. Vita, President  
Mrs. Wanosky, Vice President  
Ms. D'Anna, Treasurer  
Mr. Barnett  
Mr. McGovern  
Mrs. Gaynor  
Mrs. Oliver  
Mr. Frank Smith, Aldermanic Liaison  
Mrs. Tsang

**EXCUSED**

Mrs. Creedon, Secretary  
Dr. diFate  
Mrs. Paula Smith, Aldermanic Liaison

**ABSENT**

**Public Presentation:** For the Public Presentation Mrs. Tsang introduced Mrs. Jill Dugas Hughes, the Executive Director of the Connecticut Library Consortium (CLC), who offered to give a presentation on the purpose and benefits of the library's membership with the CLC. Mrs. Dugas Hughes greeted the Board members remembering some of them from a previous presentation. To begin, Mrs. Dugas Hughes stated that CLC is a statewide membership collaborative which serves approximately 800 libraries throughout the state. Among the types of libraries served by the CLC are public libraries, university and local school libraries as well as hospital libraries and other special libraries. Their main goal is to bring libraries together to accomplish what would be too costly for them to do alone so the CLC bids for the best price on supplies from vendors for all libraries that have a membership with them. They also provide training, networking of ideas and grant writing on behalf of libraries. On a monthly basis, the CLC offers new discounts on books, furniture and supplies. Savings for libraries in Connecticut through the CLC in 2011 exceeded \$7,000,000.00. She stated that the CLC has seven full time and part time employees with an annual budget of \$550,000.00. Mrs. Dugas Hughes stated that the more members the CLC has, the more services they are able to provide. All contracts obtained for CLC members have a clause stating that the pricing obtained is the lowest pricing available which provides added protection and benefits to having a CLC membership. She also stated that she believes one of the best benefits of the CLC is their ability to bring people together for networking and information sharing through library staff members attendance at conferences.

Mrs. Dugas Hughes stated that another benefit available to libraries through the CLC is the Library Online Resource Catalogue where libraries can search for and research programs and performers for their library programs. Through this one resource, libraries can save time and post feedback which helps other libraries. Mrs. Dugas Hughes gave a brief summary on the statewide taskforce for e-Books. Due to the addition of e-Books, the once cutting edge system that was created in Connecticut that incorporates the Connecticut delivery system and ICONN catalogue sharing has now become outdated. She stated that they have met with all e-Books vendors and non profits. She stated that due to the rapidity of changes taking place the state library has not gone into contract with Overdrive or any other e-Book vendor. She feels it's not in the best interest of libraries to commit at this time because of how rapidly changes that are taking place. She stated there is short term versus long term to consider and the goal of the CLC is to shape how things will unfold for libraries. The taskforce is looking into long term and how libraries can use their funds wisely. Discussion ensued with questions and answers about e-Books services and options. She believes there is tremendous value in resource sharing and co-operatives which the CLC researches. She also stated that consortiums have long waiting lines and that smaller consortiums are a better option. Mrs. Dugas Hughes gave a brief history of the CLC and their funding sources. One of the things that Mrs. Dugas Hughes stated she would like to see the CLC improve upon is to get the word out about what the CLC does and can do to save money for libraries. Mrs. Dugas Hughes finished her talk describing the core values and principles of the CLC. Lastly she complimented the Board stating that they have a great Director referring to Mrs. Tsang. The Board members thanked Mrs. Dugas Hughes for her presentation.

**Disposition of minutes:** Disposition of minutes: Mrs. Wanosky moved to approve the minutes of the March 7, 2012 Library Board meeting. Mr. Barnett seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**Secretary's Report:** There was no Secretary's report.

**Treasurer's Report:** Ms. D'Anna read transfers within the General Fund. \$455.00 was transferred out of Training, \$200.00 from Membership, \$640.00 from Office Equipment Rental, \$200.00 from Film and Photo and \$500.00 from Book Rebinding of which \$455.00 went into Travel/Conference, \$1,040.00 into Office Supply and \$500.00 into Book Supply.

**President's Report:** For the President's report, Mr. Vita stated that his only report is to remind everyone that the library is scheduled to be heard at the budget hearing that is scheduled for Monday April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012 if anyone would like to attend. Mrs. Wanosky stated that it would be beneficial for any Board members to attend the meeting scheduled for Thursday April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012 where they would have an opportunity to be heard. The opportunity to be heard will not be available at the hearing scheduled for April 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Librarian's Report:** Mrs. Tsang asked for support to ask for the library's budget to be supported in its entirety. Mrs. Tsang stated that Mayor Blake recently asked her to work to find the funding for e-Books from this fiscal year's Wage or Book account. Mrs. Tsang stated these funds were given specifically to pay for wages for staff coverage due to the loss of the full time position that was cut for this fiscal year. Mrs. Tsang stated that the funds from the remaining book account this fiscal year are promised for future book expenditures including summer reading for the school system. Mrs. Tsang stated she feels these requests are not reasonable considering what the library has had to give up. Mr. Smith stated that it is apparent that e-Books are becoming a fundamental service in libraries throughout the country and that Milford owes it to the public to support this service. Mrs. Tsang stated that e-Books need to be funded above what is allocated in the current budget. Mr. Barnett commented that the impact from change in the industry is creating financial requirements that may not have been there before. He stated that when a new service comes along such as e-Books that the library needs to acquire to keep pace with patron demands, the City cannot expect the library to manage and keep service levels where they are and add that within the realm of the existing budget. He stated that additional funding has to be approved. Mrs. Tsang agreed. Discussion ensued. Mr. Smith stated that he doesn't think the expectation of the funding needed for e-Books is unreasonable.

Mrs. Tsang stated that a decision was made regarding who will be hired to fill the vacant position of Library Assistant but unfortunately she cannot reveal her name at this time. Mrs. Tsang stated that this person is a librarian with an MLS degree. Mrs. Tsang reminded the Board members that the May meeting will be held at the Ellen Aftamonow Library in Woodmont. Mr. Stephen Schmidt of the Greenwich Public Library and a Milford resident generously gave two training presentations to the staff on e-Books. All of the part time staff attended and will attend the class on downloadable audio as well. With the Mayor's approval, several staff members will be attending the Book Expo and three staff members will be attending the CLA Conference in May. Mrs. Tsang believes that the library will be closed for the Memorial Day weekend and that the summer hours will begin the second week of June. For the public's knowledge, she had the change of hours reflected on the doors and will have that done for the closure on Saturday's in the summer as well. Mrs. Tsang stated that the Passport Office will be open on Friday afternoons because of the Saturday closure. Mrs. Tsang reminded the Board members to try to attend the annual Friends meeting featuring Nina Sankovitch, author of "Tolstoy and the Purple Chair" on May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. The Friends are funding the Summer Reading Club and summer programs for the Children's Department. Mrs. Tsang stated that she received a letter from the Mayor's Office from a patron, Mr. Joe Casey complimenting Reference and Media Librarian, Mr. Arthur Bargar, for his kindness and honesty in returning something that he had left in error in a book which he returned to the library. Mr. Casey addressed the letter to Mayor Blake to let him know of Mr. Bargar's kindness.

**Old Business:** There was no old business.

**New Business:** There was no new business.

**Mrs. Wanosky moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. Ms. D'Anna seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Sharretto, Clerk to the Board  
Mrs. Linda Creedon, Secretary