

**Belmar Public Library  
Board of Trustees Meeting  
January 12, 2026 Organizational Meeting  
Minutes**

Present: Danielle Arnold, Bruce Blattner, Mark Furey, Darleen Havens, Pat Hutchinson, Johanna Roper-Robinson, Maria Rondinaro, Sharon Russell-Fowler, Michael Schappert

Absent: Jimmy Alvarez, Mayor Jerry Buccafusco

Also present: David Hallman, Luis Pulido

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm. Mr. Hallman read the notice of the meeting and announced that under new regulations, notice of board meetings will no longer be posted in print in the Coast Star and Asbury Park Press. They will now be posted online in the Belmar.com and Belmar Public Library web sites.

Attendees pledged allegiance to the flag. Ms. Havens nominated Ms. Hutchinson to continue as Secretary. Mr. Blattner seconded the motion. Ms. Hutchinson was elected unanimously in a voice vote and proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. Schappert nominated Ms. Russell-Fowler to continue as President of the Board; Ms. Russell-Fowler nominated Ms. Havens to serve as Treasurer; Mr. Blattner nominated Mr. Schappert as Vice-President. Mr. Furey seconded all nominations and voice votes were taken for each office. Ms. Russell-Fowler was elected President; Ms. Havens was elected Treasurer; and Mr. Schappert was elected Vice-President, unanimously in each case.

Ms. Havens moved to accept the November, 2025 minutes. The motion was seconded by Ms. Roper-Robinson and the board voted unanimously to accept the November minutes.

Director's Report

Mr. Hallman announced the library board's 2026 meeting dates:

March 9

May 11

July 13

September 14

November 9

2027 Reorganization: January 11

Mr. Hallman reiterated the library's 2026 holiday closings calendar.

January	Library closed 1/1 New Year's Day; 1/19 MLK Birthday
February	Library closed 2/16 Presidents' Day
March	Library closed 3/1 Parade Day
April	Library closed 4/3-5 Easter wknd
May	Library closed 5/24,25 Memorial Day wknd
July	Library closed 7/3-5 Fourth of July/US Semi-sesquicentennial
September	Library closed 9/5-7 Labor Day wknd
October	Library closed 10/12 Columbus Day
November	Library closed 11/25 (2 pm)-29 Thanksgiving wknd
December	Library closed 12/24-27 Christmas wknd; Library closed at 2 pm 12/31/26
January '27	Library closed 1/1/27 NY day

Mr. Hallman informed the board that we have \$473, 800 in our general (not capital) reserve fund. He will inform the comptroller that the board wants to roll over the maximum of 20% into the fund.

Mr. Hallman announced that the borough's non-civil service employees will be receiving a 2.5% raise. He requested we vote the same amount for library employees.

Mr. Schappert proposed:

A resolution to increase the salaries of all library employees by 2.5%, commensurate with borough non-union employees. Ms. Roper-Robinson seconded the motion.

Danielle Arnold	Y
Bruce Blattner	Y
Mark Furey	Y
Darleen Havens	Y
Pat Hutchinson	Y
Maria Rondinaro	Y
Johanna Roper-Robinson	Y
Sharon Russell-Fowler	Y
Michael Schappert	Y

The motion was carried unanimously to increase library salaries by 2.5%.

Mr. Hallman distributed a report from the Belmar Borough Engineers, Remington & Vernick, explaining the five bids that were received for Belmar Library facade

improvements. The Engineers recommend awarding the contract to the low bidder, George Koustas Ptg & Constr, LLC. The board reviewed the bids and concurred with the engineers on the award.

Consequently, Ms. Russell-Fowler offered:

A resolution to approve the recommendation of the borough engineers to accept the lowest bid for both the Base Bid and Alternate Bid 1, totaling \$206,000.00, submitted by George Koustas, Ptg & Constr, LLC to complete work on the facade of the library.

Ms. Roper-Robinson seconded the resolution.

Danielle Arnold	Y
Bruce Blattner	Y
Mark Furey	Y
Darleen Havens	Y
Pat Hutchinson	Y
Maria Rondinaro	Y
Johanna Roper-Robinson	Y
Sharon Russell-Fowler	Y
Michael Schappert	Y

The motion was carried unanimously to accept the \$206,000.00 bid.

#### Mr. Pulido's report

Mr. Pulido provided data about the two events that took place in December, the Live animal event and the Zack Alexander concert.

Mr. Pulido also previewed the February through March 2026 events that are planned.

For more information, please see attached document.

A number of future events was discussed, including:

Living History proposed series:

2/5 George Washington;  
2/21 Thomas Jefferson & Abigail Adams  
3/7 Julia Gordon Lowe, Girl Scouts founder  
3/14 Bessie Coleman;  
4/2 Molly Pitcher;  
4/18 Langaton Hughes

#### Treasurer's Report

November 2025

Budget Amount	\$973,580.00		
Spent to date	\$532,515.44		
Waiting to pay vendor	\$64,449.78		
STD & Waiting	\$569,965.22		
Balance of Budget	<b>\$376,614.78</b>		
Budget Amount	<b>\$973,580.00</b>		
Amount Spent	<b>\$569,965.22</b>		
Balance	<b>\$376,614.78</b>	61%	

December 2025

Budget Amount	\$973,580.00		
Spent to date	\$590,692.05		
Waiting to pay vendor	\$40,934.21		
STD & Waiting	\$631,626.26		
Balance of Budget	<b>\$341,953.74</b>		
Budget Amount	<b>\$973,580.00</b>		
Amount Spent	<b>\$631,626.26</b>		
Balance	<b>\$341,953.74</b>	65%	

There being no new or old business to discuss or comments from the public, Mr. Schappert moved to adjourn the meeting and Ms. Roper-Robinson seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Submitted by Pat Hutchinson, 01/13/2026