Belmar Public Library
Board of Trustees Meeting
July 13, 2026 Minutes

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

Absent: Jimmy Alvarez, Mayor Caitlin Donovan, Sharon Russell-Fowler

Also present: David Hallman, Luis Pulido

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm. Mr. Schappert read the notice of the meeting posted on Belmar.com and Belmar Public Library web sites.

Attendees pledged allegiance to the flag. Ms. Hutchinson called the roll.

Mr. Schappert moved to accept the June 8, 2026 minutes. The motion was seconded by Ms. Roper-Robinson and the board voted unanimously to accept the June minutes.

Luis Pulido's Report

Mr. Pulido has continued his research into the proposed "Library of Things"—addressing a number of questions that the board had asked during the last meeting. He had looked into the type and number of items included in various local libraries' collections, including the Monmouth County Library and the Red Bank Library. He found that we might initially want to have 20 to 30 items that could be borrowed. Storage of these and future acquisitions would require the construction of a shed on the southeast quadrant of the library property. The library received estimates for the survey, site preparation, construction, installation and outfitting of the shed, which came to a total of $26,175.

We would need to display items for loan within the library building. The collections would initially include recreational and outdoor items; items supporting, creative, musical and educational activities; household tools; and audiovisual tools and equipment. Some of these items would have to be purchased, while the library already owns several of them. Acquisition of the collection would bring the total cost to about $33,000.

Other questions were raised about the plan. The wet area in back of the library which has previously flooded is the same area where the storage shed is planned. Mr. Pulido assured that this would be addressed by putting the shed on a raised platform. We also discussed the idea of remote storage, perhaps in the

unused area of the school board office building next to the school. This then raised questions about the need for staff to leave the building and cover two locations—it was agreed that further research might be needed.
Concerning liability and signout of items and liability, there would be a disclaimer that the borrower would sign. Items would be lent for two weeks with no renewal.

Director's Report

Remington and Vernick Engineers submitted a Scope of Services and Cost Proposal for a comprehensive building assessment for the library. The cost proposed for the project was $30,600. Mr. Schappert would like the assessment to include a determination of the state of all systems to conclude whether some parts are redundant and unnecessary. If so, this may afford us space for other needed features, such as a handicapped bathroom.

Ms. Rondinaro made a motion that the board approve the expenditure of the $30,600 for the Scope of Services proposed by Remington and Vernick. Mr. Blattner seconded the motion, which was then approved unanimously by voice vote.

Mr. Hallman reported that Bob Mataranglo's visitor sign-in structure near his guitar sculpture has been designed and nearly completed and will be installed when finished.

Treasurer's Report

June2026

Budget Amount	$1,084,404.00		
Spent to date	$492,728.89		
Waiting to pay vendor	$43,101.88		
STD & Waiting	$535,830.77		
Balance of Budget	**$548,573,23**		
Budget Amount	**$1,084,404.00**		
Amount Spent	**$535,830.77**		
Balance	**$548,573,23**	49%	

President's Report

Although the library had to be closed for part of the day because of exterior flooding, there was only an inch of water in the lower floor of the library during the torrential rains of the previous Monday.

$180,000 was used on the exterior building improvements.

Old and New Business

There was no old or new business to discuss,

Public Comments

Ms. Anita Pecorelli, a member of the public, made a statement concerning library concerts. She requested that, considering the fee paid to the Ocean Avenue Stompers, Pat Roddy be paid a comparable fee of $3000. She cited Mr. Roddy's long standing as a supporter of library functions and the popularity of his band to support this suggestion. Additionally, Ms. Pecorelli questioned the need for the HVAC evaluation and suggested we consider an evaluation of the flooding threat to the area where we are planning to locate the shed for the Library of Things

Ms. Sandra Caputo, who regularly videos the board meetings, asked that the board accommodate requests from the audience to speak more loudly, explaining that it is difficult to hear some of the discussion from the rear of the room.

After the public comments, Ms. Roper-Robinson moved that the meeting be adjourned. Mr. Schappert seconded, and the board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 pm.

Submitted by Pat Hutchinson, 07/03/2026