Belmar Public Library
Board of Trustees Meeting
September 14, 2026 Minutes

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

Absent: Jimmy Alvarez, Danielle Arnold, Michael Schappert (excused), Mayor Caitlin Donovan

Also absent: Luis Pulido, David Hallman

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm. Ms. Russell-Fowler 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. Furey moved to accept the August 10, 2026 minutes. The motion was seconded by Ms. Roper-Robinson and the board voted unanimously to accept the August minutes.

Director's Report Given by Ms. Russell-Fowler

DPW worked on Sunday to raise, level, mulch and install pavers to the visitors' photo spot by the guitar sculpture. The project should be finished by this Thursday.

Members of the committee to work on pricing and purchasing items for the Library of Things, including Ms. Havens, Ms. Rondinaro, Ms. Russell-Fowler and Mr. Furey, met to create a list of initial purchases. (See attached) The board was invited to amend or add to the list. A sump pump was suggested as an addition.

Treasurer's Report

August 2026

Budget Amount	$1,084,404.00		
Spent to date	$600,623.36		
Waiting to pay vendor	$63,434.83		
STD & Waiting	$664,058.19		

Balance of Budget	**$420,345.81**		
Budget Amount	**$1,084,404.00**		
Amount Spent	$664,058.19		
Balance	**$420,345.81**	61%	

Mr. Blattner raised a question about the “Waiting to pay vendor” line in the treasurer’s report. The Board agreed that a wait of several weeks or months was unfair to contractors/vendors. Ms. Rondinaro explained that because the Library’s bills are included with the other Borough bills, they cannot be expedited by the financial office. When vendors sign a contract, they also agree to wait for 1.5 to 3 months for payment after completion of the job. Several Board members would like to pursue streamlining this process, although no actions were initiated.

Old Business

The Pat Roddy concert this Thursday may conflict with the San Gennaro awards dinner. Although every attempt is made to avoid scheduling conflicts, there is a great deal going on in Belmar in September.

New Business

Ms. Russell-Fowler suggested acquiring a new series for 7-13 year olds titled “Spectacular Stories.”

We need to request signs for posting in and around the Library, stating that no smoking is permitted within 200 feet of a public building. Smoking has been witnessed on the Library grounds at recent concerts.

Reminder: TRUSTEE CONTINUING EDUCATION 2026 REQUIREMENT
New State Aid regulations were promulgated in late 2025. These new requirements mean that public library trustees and commissioners need to complete two hours of continuing education during 2026 that will be reported on in the 2027 Annual Survey.
Continuing education is required by law. Under NJSA (New Jersey Statutes Annotated 15:21-2.3): each member of the board or commission must complete a minimum of two hours of library-related education annually to qualify for state aid, among other requirements.

Public Comments

Ms. Anita Pecorelli, a member of the public, asked how money donated by the Ghosh family has been spent and Ms. Russell-Fowler explained about children's furniture on the main floor and the bench outside.

After the public comments, Mr. Blattner moved that the meeting be adjourned. Ms. Havens seconded, and the board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 pm. The next meeting will be held on October 19, 2026 at 6 pm.

Submitted by Pat Hutchinson, 09/15/2026

Library of Things Preliminary Acquisition List

Item	Price Estimate	Quantity	Amazon Link
Acoustic Guitar	$213	1	https://tinyurl.com/4mev9ueb
Cordless Power Drill/Driver	$148	1	https://tinyurl.com/3f2pknyx
Wet/Dry Vacuum	$148	2	https://tinyurl.com/2r745yd6
Sewing Serger Machine w/ Accessories	$280	1	https://tinyurl.com/85hs628e
Socket Wrench Set	$48	1	https://tinyurl.com/yya6zkux
Large Cooler with Wheels	$125	1	https://tinyurl.com/44jv6cud
Stand Mixer Plus Attachments	$400	1	https://tinyurl.com/3vuzx9yz
Instant Pot 10 in 1 Muli cooker	$170	1	https://tinyurl.com/u6yne5vt
VHS Digital Converter	$180	1	https://tinyurl.com/m9rs7tas
Folding Cargo Wagon	$80	1	https://tinyurl.com/mrcdfxfr
Portable Auto Air Pump	$76	1	https://tinyurl.com/mtrwh4py
Assorted Board Games	$120		n/a
Metal Detector	$100	1	https://tinyurl.com/3saemynr
Assorted Lawn Games	$150		n/a
Outdoor Power Bank	$300	1	https://tinyurl.com/338fmztc
Large Bleutooth Speaker	$70	1	https://tinyurl.com/3a4xrxy3
Vinyl LP Record Player	$90	1	https://tinyurl.com/56sj4mfs
Cordless Leaf Blower	$190	1	https://tinyurl.com/yc8ezbw9
Karaoke Machine	$133	1	https://tinyurl.com/yn229yxn
Pressure Washer	$200	2	https://tinyurl.com/2j8cnepm
Photo, Slide & Negative Scanner	$170	1	https://tinyurl.com/3jdt4vfu
Outdoor Projection Screen	$100	1	https://tinyurl.com/3tuhvtxz
Powered Drain Cleaner	$100	1	https://tinyurl.com/4pzscfyu
6' Step Ladder	$155	1	https://tinyurl.com/3ckvukkj
Electric Knife & Scissor Sharpener	$45	1	https://tinyurl.com/2s3dwwrz

Sump Pump