The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Bellmore Memorial Library was called to order on April 21, 2020 at 5:41 p.m. by Trustee Roberta Newman.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Since the library was closed due to COVID-19, notices were posted on the library’s entranceways and website advising the Public that they can join the meeting via Go-To-Meetings.

According to Open Meeting Law the meeting was recorded.

Joining the meeting remotely were Board Members Peter Pagones, Robert Paz, Emily Schreiber, Roberta Newman and Wendy Forgash. Director Elaine Cummings-Young, and Secretary to the Board Marie Simoneschi, also joined the meeting remotely.

The Minutes of the March 2020, subject to correction were approved by a motion made by Peter Pagones. The motion was seconded by Emily Schreiber and passed unanimously.

The Financial Report was accepted on a motion made by Robert Paz, which was seconded by Peter Pagones. The motion passed unanimously.

Bills for the month of March 2020 totaling $84,116.00 were approved on a motion made by Emily Schreiber that was seconded by Wendy Forgash. The motion passed unanimously.

The Director’s Report was read and acknowledged.
Old Business:

Roberta Newman made a motion to approve the policy below regarding health insurance premiums for retired employees not covered by the Bellmore Memorial Library Staff manual. Wendy Forgash seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Upon retirement employees hired on a full-time basis but not covered by the Staff Manual with 5 years of service to the Bellmore Memorial Library and reaching the age of 65, when Medicare becomes primary, the Library shall pay 100% of the premium for the Supplemental NYSHIP policy for Individual and 35% for Family Coverage, unless an otherwise written agreement exists between the library and the employee.

A discussion regarding the Proposal for an Evaluation Report for Interior Renovation and HVAC Work was tabled to a future Meeting.

Roberta Newman made a motion to approve the 2019 New York State Annual Report. The Motion was seconded by Wendy Forgash and passed unanimously.

New Business:

The Executive Order for Covid-19 has been extended to May 15. All in house programs have been cancelled until August 2020. The Summer Reading Program will be virtual this Summer 2020. Book drops are closed off. Patrons have been advised to hold on to their material until we reopen. No fines will be incurred.

Wendy Forgash made a motion to approve the Resolution on Altered Operations in Response to Covid-19. Roberta Newman seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
Resolution on Altered Operations in Response to Covid-19

WHEREAS the World Health Organization declared the Covid-19 virus a pandemic on March 11, 2020 and

WHEREAS New York State and Nassau County have declared States of Emergency; and

WHEREAS the most effective way to slow the spread of the disease is to practice strict social distancing; and

WHEREAS the BML Board wishes to put the health, safety, and security of the BML staff first; and

WHEREAS the BML Board also desires for BML to serve library patrons to the greatest possible extent during this crisis; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED as of April 21, 2020 BML’s usual operations and leave policies will be altered such that:

The BML building will remain open with reduced hours, except to the extent required to be closed by Executive order or in the discretion of the Director; BML will suspend weekend hours until further notice.

Employees shall not report to the BML building unless otherwise directed by the Director. BML shall continue to pay such employees’ base pay compensation in accordance with their regular weekly schedule in exchange for the employees’ availability and ability on a as-needed basis, to perform job related duties remotely during such times as may be reasonably expected by the Director;

Employees unable or unwilling to work remotely shall not be entitled to pay except to the extents such employees elect to utilize accrued paid leave benefits. Such employees will be permitted to go into a negative balance of up to five days if all types of leave are exhausted, which would be recouped by future accruals.

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary, employees may be eligible for paid leave time without a charge against their accrual to the extent such leave qualifies under the United States’ Families First Coronavirus Response Act or any other applicable law.

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that these alterations are not precedent-setting and will be in place until further notice and for a limited time until the Board determines that conditions warrant reverting to usual policies and procedures.
At 6:44 pm Robert Paz made a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss personnel. Emily Schreiber seconded the motion.

At 7:09 p.m. Emily Schreiber made a motion to exit Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Wendy Forgash.

The next Board Meeting will be on May 19, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

At 7:16 pm Peter Pagones made a motion to adjourn the Board Meeting. Robert Paz seconded the motion at which time the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Simoneschi
Secretary to the Board of Trustees