MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS

Date : September 12, 2013

Time : 1:00 P.M.

Place : Worcester Public Library

Worcester, Massachusetts

Present : Francis R. Murphy, Chairman; Mary Rose Quinn, Vice Chairman; Gregory J. Shesko, Secretary; Carol B. Caro; Mary Ann Cluggish; Mary Kronholm; N. Janeen Resnick; Alice M. Welch

Absent : George T. Comeau

**Staff Present:**

Dianne Carty, Acting Director; Liz Babbitt, State Aid Specialist; Celeste Bruno, Communications Specialist; Barbara Glazerman, Head of Operations and Budget; Marlene Heroux, Reference Information Systems Specialist; Paul Kissman, Library Information Systems Specialist; William Morton, Assistant to the Director; Cynthia Roach, Head of Library Advisory and Development/Government Liaison; Rosemary Waltos, Library Building Specialist

**Observers Present:**

Karen Cariani, Director of the Media Library and Archives at WGBH and President of Digital Commonwealth; Kim Charlson, Library Director, Perkins Braille & Talking Book Library; Chuck Flaherty, Town Librarian, Public Library of Brookline; Gianna Gifford, Manager of Reference & Instruction, Boston Public Library; Michael Howard, Talking Books Supervisor, Worcester Public Library; James Izatt, Head of the Worcester Talking Book Library at Worcester Public Library; Wei Jeng-Chu, Director, Worcester Public Library; Joan Kuklinski, Executive Director, C/W Mars; Kathy Lowe, Executive Director, Massachusetts School Library Association; Susan McAlister, Executive Director, Minuteman Library Network; Krista McLeod, Director, Nevins Memorial Library in Methuen/Co-Chair, Massachusetts Library Association Legislative Committee; Carolyn Noah, Assistant Director, Massachusetts Library System; Dinah O’Brien, Director of Community Resources, Plymouth; Gregory Pronevitz, Executive Director, Massachusetts Library System; Jackie Rafferty, Director, Paul Pratt Memorial Library in Cohassett; Sharon Shaloo, Executive Director, Massachusetts Center for the Book; Gayle Simundza, Executive Director, Cape Libraries Automated Materials Sharing (CLAMS, Inc.); David Slater, Executive Director, OCLN; Steven Spohn, Resource Sharing Director, Massachusetts Library System

**Call to Order**

Chairman Murphy called the meeting to order at 1:05 P.M. and welcomed attendees.

**DISCUSSION OF THE BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS LEGISLATIVE AGENDA AND BUDGET REQUEST FOR FY2015**

Chairman Murphy stated that the purpose of today’s open forum on the Board’s FY2015 budget is to hear testimony from stakeholders from the Massachusetts library community and to receive their input on the Board’s FY2015 Legislative Agenda, and also to begin the lengthy process of advocating for an adequate MBLC budget for Massachusetts libraries.

Acting Director Carty reviewed the state budget process and timeline. She also reported on the results of the survey seeking input on the MBLC account lines in the FY2015 budget.

Prior to the public budget testimony, Communications Specialist Celeste Bruno presented the new design for the FY2015 Legislative Agenda. Ms. Bruno explained that the basic idea behind the new agenda was to focus on a specific service and the funding connected to the service. In the past, much effort has been put into explaining individual account lines with little or no funding increase. Ms. Bruno also explained that focusing on a single concept shows how funding will be used and will be easier for legislators to understand.

Ms. Bruno then introduced the theme for the agenda by stating that with the rise of eBooks and eContent, the Digital Divide has turned into a Digital Lockout. Ending the Digital Lockout is the overall theme of the agenda. The new statewide eBook pilot addresses many of the needs of residents and essentially helps end the Digital Lockout. Ms. Bruno showed the FY2015 Legislative Agenda as an infographic with information about resident’s needs, library funding cuts, and how the eBook pilot will work. A funding chart with all of the MBLC’s account lines will be added.

**TESTIMONY BY MEMBERS OF THE LIBRARY COMMUNITY**

**Kathy Lowe, Executive Director, Massachusetts School Library Association (Testimony as presented and/or submitted)**

Ms. Lowe updated the Commissioners on the status of Bill S.1475, “A Resolve Creating a Special Commission on School library Services in the Commonwealth.” She stated that the bill is now in the Senate Committee on Ethics and Rules.

Ms. Lowe then read the following letter:

*September 10, 2013*

*To Whom It May Concern,*

*Massachusetts students depend on the resources provided through the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners. In many communities school library budgets have been cut deeply over the past decade. Where this has happened, students depend upon the electronic databases provided through the MBLC to get up-to-date, reliable information. As the Common Core Standards are implemented here, students are increasingly asked to read informational texts, to read primary source materials, and to find evidence to support claims. MBLC’s databases provide every student with the materials they will need to meet these requirements. Students who begin using databases in our K-12 schools will head to college ready to conduct rigorous academic research. Students also benefit from the work that the MBLC continues to do to increase broadband access in Central and Western Massachusetts. With an increasingly digital world, access to broadband ensures that every student in the Commonwealth has an equal chance to gather and share the wealth of information now found online.*

*School librarians depend heavily on the Massachusetts Library System for professional development. While schools do provide training for their teachers, the specialized training required for library work cannot easily be obtained there. The Area Directors of the Massachusetts School Library Association meet regularly with MLS staff to provide school librarians with free training on a wide-range of topics, from technology integration to children’s literature.*

*Finally, we are now looking to the MLS e-book pilot project to help us provide electronic books to our students. MLS is working with selected school librarians to explore ways to share these books with students. In a fast-changing world, being able to provide e-books to every student will help ensure that students who do not have the means to purchase e-books will be able to keep up with their peers in this new reading medium. It will also ensure that students will be exposed to the best new materials in our public schools.*

*Massachusetts’ students depend on these resources and services. We thank the MBLC for its support, and look forward to working with you to achieve a successful outcome during the upcoming legislative session.*

*Sincerely,*

*Judi Paradis, President*

*Massachusetts School Library Association*

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**Sharon Shaloo, Executive Director, Massachusetts Center for the Book (Testimony as presented and/or submitted)**

*Dear Dianne:*

*I am writing to respond to the draft legislative agenda and w to make an urgent request for inclusion:*

*Response: It is unclear to me whether the presentation yesterday was an inclusive presentation of the legislative argument for FY 2015 or only a component of it, and if it is the latter then the following may not pertain:*

*How does each line of the library budget relate to the issue of e-books? What if a contingent of legislators says e-books can wait until we are in better financial shape? Will MBLC's entire argument for increased funding be impacted?*

*Frankly, I think a better overall argument for libraries is that they are "first responders" in access to information, in literacy, in cultural enrichment, and etc., and to maximize the effectiveness of this comprehensive response to our commonwealth's most pressing literacy needs, all library lines need to be increased, most especially to maximize the potential that economies of scale through resource-sharing provide.*

*It seems to me that the e-book example ... that individual libraries cannot enter the electronic information phase on their own owing to the onerous pricing structures of the major publishers ... is one talking point of a larger argument. The pilot project to develop a uniform commonwealth platform is one example of a response that funding for resource sharing can provide.*

*It seems to me that each library line can be better argued for as a first response/economy of scale argument ... and that this narrow focus on ebooks leaves a lot of "and alsos" in any legislative discussions.*

*Request: I am urging that MBLC develop a budget line for MCB under the rubric of the "first-response to pressing needs" argument as well. Libraries recognize that there are going to be for the foreseeable future limited dollars for public initiatives and that public funds, not unlike stimulus funds, will (and should) be allocated for infrastructure. That being said, there pressing needs beyond infrastructure, and to meet those challenges, libraries intend to invest a modest amount of funds in establishing the mechanisms for professional outreach to funding organizations to bring private dollars into the library community to fund statewide initiatives in cultural and literacy programming.*

*The modest investment of $250K in the administrative functioning of the Massachusetts Center for the Book will establish the means by which to exploit the potential of a public-private partnership to raise private funds for programming that can be distributed to libraries statewide, benefitting, most specifically, the smaller libraries which do not have staff to support these initiatives on their own, but creating new opportunities for larger libraries as well, linking them to other communities via regional programming initiatives that underscore their importance to communities beyond their city/town lines.*

*Please re-emphasize this year your endorsement for H 3292 and develop an appropriate budget line for funding of MCB at the modest sum of $250K to invest in a statewide development effort to benefit Massachusetts libraries in their roles as cultural centers in their communities.*

*Regards,*

*Sharon*

*Sharon Shaloo, Executive Director*

*Massachusetts Center for the Book*

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**Susan McAlister, Chair, MLA Legislative Committee and Executive Director, Minuteman Library Network (Presentation summary)**

* Support increased funding for State Aid and Technology lines
* Without increased funding there is concern for the sustainability of the statewide eBook Pilot
* Networks are ready to deliver eBooks and eContent
* Networks are now central to sharing eContent

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**Karen Cariani, Director of the Media Library and Archives at WGBH and President of Digital Commonwealth (Testimony as presented and/or submitted)**

*September 6, 2013*

*To: Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners*

*RE: Board's FY2015 Legislative Agenda and budget request*

*Digital Commonwealth Statement*

*These days much of the public turn first to their computers to find information and resources. A library or archive that is able to share its collection online, will greatly expand its user base and public access. The Digital Commonwealth's mission is to promote the creation of digital library resources by Massachusetts institutions and to provide public access to these resources. The Digital Commonwealth offers a web portal to aggregate Massachusetts based content already on the web as well as a repository to store content for members who cannot host their own. The result is one website to search for Massachusetts digital materials. In addition, as a state¬wide network, Digital Commonwealth is an aggregation site for the Digital Public Library of America, allowing exposure of Massachusetts cultural institutions to a wider national network.*

*The Digital Commonwealth is now 7 years old. Our members are located throughout the state and range from small to large local libraries, museums, archives and other cultural institutions, many which include collections of national significance. While their missions vary, the contributions of each institution result in a tremendously rich resource on the Digital Commonwealth website available for personal research, formal education, promoting tourism and economic development, and so much more!*

*Our partnership with the Boston Public Library has been enormously successful. Utilizing money from the Library for the Commonwealth program, the BPL is developing a state-of-the-art repository and portal to provide a stable technical platform for the Digital Commonwealth. This allows the Digital Commonwealth to work on outreach, particularly centering on training librarians and archivists in digitization techniques, and training classroom educators in the use of these digital resources. As a result, membership in Digital Commonwealth has jumped significantly in the past two years, over 350%.*

*Librarians and archivists are extremely appreciative of the opportunity to have their collections be available outside of their institution's walls. And classroom educators are excited to have these resources reflecting Massachusetts history at their fingertips. Tia Esposito the Library Director of the Corcoran Library at BC High School shares the following statement about using resources from Digital Commonwealth while developing a lesson plan about using baseball to explore issues relating to nativism and immigrations issues in Boston:*

*While there are many wonderful international and national content providers that we are fortunate to work with, the Digital Commonwealth of Massachusetts provides the key ingredient that makes the lesson come to life for my students, the "local" component. In essence Digital Commonwealth of Massachusetts offers a wealth of information that no others can, digital images of our rich, local, cultural history. As the American Library Association pointed out in a recent American Libraries Live webinar, libraries need to get "hyper-local" meaning they need to be able to engage their patrons and for school libraries, their students, with content that is real and meaningful to them about their local community. This is what Digital Commonwealth provides to our students, a rich and relevant context in which to learn about the history of Nativism and immigration in Boston through the lens of baseball.*

*Tia Esposito's lesson plan is available at the Digital Commonwealth's website, http://www.digitalcommonwealth.org/lesson\_plans. Tia's library, the Corcoran Library at BC High School was the recipient of 2013 ALA Cutting Edge Technology Award.*

*The Digital Commonwealth is a volunteer organization working towards the goal of sustainability. Achieving 501(c)3 status and hiring support staff will help us increase the number of members we can help with their digital projects. This will in turn provide more fabulous resources available to the citizens of the Commonwealth. Digital Commonwealth fully supports an increase in the 9401 line for the Library for the Commonwealth. Overall it strengthens the ability for libraries across the state to participate in the BPL digitization program, in Digital Commonwealth, and in the Digital Public Library of America.*

*Sincerely,*

*Digital Commonwealth Board*

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**Dinah O’Brien, Past President, Massachusetts Library Association and Director of Community Resources, Plymouth (Presentation summary)**

* The decrease in the State Aid to Public Libraries line 9501 on the Cherry Sheets not only reduces the ability to begin community specific innovative programs but also directly impacts a community’s willingness to support the library through local tax appropriations.
* Line 9506 is also a life line for public libraries in Massachusetts is. Without this support for the automated networks interlibrary loan, circulation, and cataloging would come to a grinding halt.
* MLA will host a “Breakfast on Breakfasts” and has prepared a Legislative Breakfast Toolkit to assist with the upcoming legislative breakfast cycle.

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**Michael Colford, Director of Library Services, Boston Public Library (Testimony as presented and/or submitted)**

*Statement for Public Hearing, September 12, 2013*

*Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, FY15 Budget*

*With libraries remaining central to the communities across Massachusetts, and remaining busier than ever, I would like to address the Boston Public Library’s Library for the Commonwealth program, funded by line 9401 in the MBLC budget.*

*Two years ago, the MBLC awarded the Boston Public Library LSTA grant funding to support a feasibility study exploring statewide digitization through our state-of-the-art Digital Services department. The study was a success, proving that this service not only aligns perfectly with the BPL’s strategic plan and the core missions of the Digital Commonwealth and the Digital Public Library of America, but also addresses the ever-growing need for educators, researchers, and academics to have access to cultural heritage materials online. The response from communities from the Berkshires to the Cape has been enthusiastically positive, further illustrating both the need and the promise of this program of service.*

*To date, the BPL has received applications for services from over 130 public libraries, archives, historical societies, museums, and other smaller, special libraries throughout the state. These applications include whaling ship deck logs from New Bedford Whaling Museum that have been imported into a crowdsourcing software platform which enables dedicated volunteers to extract and transcribe precise geographic and temperature records into a database which will help scientists better understand and model climate change, and several rare and out-of-print yearbooks belonging to Chapter 9 of the 173rd Airborne Brigade, based in Reading Mass., which were digitized on put online, allowing members of this elite military unit to reconnect and reminisce with former colleagues across great geographic distances. We have worked with institutions as widely known as Harvard and Northeastern as well as smaller, community based organizations such as the Hatfield Historical Museum and the Lawrence History Center. The BPL would like to acknowledge the support of the library community, the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, and legislators across the state for supporting an increase in fiscal year 2014 to the Library for the Commonwealth budget. These additional funds allow us to continue to bring as many collections -- from as many institutions as possible -- to light on the Web for our students, researchers, and lifelong learners.*

*We are doing this through collection evaluation, project management, scanning, and basic metadata consultations. We are also building a new repository and portal system for Digital Commonwealth, where the digital objects that are created by us and others will be preserved, managed, and displayed into perpetuity. These systems and services will provide an “on ramp” to the DPLA, giving our partners exposure on a national level. We are asking for an increase to budget line 9401 in FY 15 to increase the capacity of this program and explore ways to expand our services into other areas such as metadata creation (for increased discoverability and compatibility with other systems), digitization of time-based media (film, video, sound), and bulk ingest to the Digital Commonwealth repository. The continued growth of this statewide digital library is essential to Massachusetts as it provides an online collection of historical resources that is deeply representative of the complex fabric of our Commonwealth.*

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**Gregory Pronevitz, Executive Director, Massachusetts Library System (Testimony as presented and submitted)**

*September 12, 2013*

*Dianne Carry, Acting Director*

*Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners*

*98 North Washington Street, Suite 401*

*Boston, MA 02114*

*Dear Ms. Carty:*

*We are writing on behalf of the Executive Board of the Massachusetts Library System. We thank you for your ongoing support of the Massachusetts Library System (MLS) and statewide initiatives to benefit libraries and patrons throughout the Commonwealth.*

*The Massachusetts Library System is an integral link in supporting library services to every community in the Commonwealth. We have two priorities for funding: the statewide eBook platform and continued restoration of MLS operating funds.*

*MLS is managing the statewide eBook platform, which is planned to be available to all libraries and be available to all residents of the Commonwealth. This project comes at a transitional time for libraries as they strive to meet the needs of patrons who are clamoring for eBooks while at the same time the huge demand for traditional library materials has not shrunk. The eBook landscape is a great challenge for libraries and a shared platform with statewide negotiations and purchasing power will add much efficiency. Providing funding to support libraries for a sustainable future for eBook access statewide is essential.*

*MLS funding comes from budget line 7000-9401. This line is down by about $7 million from its high point in fy2001. We have been doing more with less. MLS is very efficiently providing many training events for librarians~335 events attended by 3,322 last year, millions of full-text articles online, and the physical delivery of over 14 million items to support interlibrary loan. We need to do more.*

*Restoring funding to support inflationary costs and the cost of an additional professional staff member will contribute to the services MLS provides to more than 1,600 libraries of all types, e.g., K-12, academic, hospital, public, museums, and historical societies.*

*We thank you for your time and consideration, and for your ongoing support.*

*Sincerely,*

*Patrick Marshall, President, Gregory Pronevitz, Executive Director,*

*Massachusetts Library System and Massachusetts Library System*

*Director, Jonathan Bourne Public Library*

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**Gayle Simundza, Executive Director, Cape Libraries Automated Materials Sharing (CLAMS, Inc.) (Testimony as presented and/or submitted)**

*September 3, 2013*

*Dianne Carty, Acting Director*

*Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners*

*98 North Washington Street, Suite 401*

*Boston, MA 02114*

*RE: MBLC Budget Forum Comments*

*Dear Dianne:*

*The Board of Directors of the CLAMS library network would like the MBLC to know that the current programs included in the budget for Library Technology and Resource Sharing, are extremely valuable to the CLAMS member libraries. As new technologies and digital resources continue to impact libraries and require greater expenditures of local funds, we would like to see the budget for Line Item 7000-9506 increased, as it directly benefits our libraries and patrons. Twenty-nine (29) of the CLAMS libraries have been wired as part of the OpenCape fiber optic broadband project, and an increase in the Telecommunications budget would help them to take full advantage of these connections.*

*The CLAMS members are pleased that the MBLC has actively promoted a statewide resource sharing project for downloadable e-books. We would welcome additional funding towards assistance for libraries with other new technologies that are likely to impact library service in coming years.*

*One area of concern for CLAMS members is the current model for the Massachusetts Library System, which is not working well for libraries at the far corners of the state. While online training can be convenient and appropriate for some subject areas, there are some programs that are more effective in person, and CLAMS libraries have found that training has not always been available when and where it is needed. The former regional service model was much more useful in this area.*

*Thank you for your consideration.*

*Sincerely,*

*Gayle Simundza*

*Executive Director*

*Cape Libraries Automated Materials Sharing (CLAMS, Inc.)*

*270 Communication Way, Unit 4E*

*Hyannis, MA 02601*

*508-790-4399*

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**Kim Charlson, Library Director, Perkins Braille & Talking Book Library (Testimony as presented and/or submitted)**

*Perkins Braille & Talking Book Library Line Item 7000-9406*

*September 12, 2013*

*To: Members of the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners*

*Thank you for the opportunity to submit information to you on the Perkins Braille & Talking Book Library program (line item 7000-9406). As you know, the Perkins Library provides a wide range of accessible library services to over 25,000 individuals in Massachusetts who are unable to read regular print due to a disability and to institutions serving this population. We appreciate the opportunity to familiarize you with our program, and to discuss priorities for maintaining our programs in FY 2015.*

*In FY 2014, the Perkins Library received a 2.3% funding increase of $55,408.00. We are very appreciative to the Legislature for their recognition of the importance of our program for the people we serve. With this increase, the Perkins Library was able to fill two critical customer service/reader advisory positions to work with patrons and improve the level of responsiveness to borrower requests. We have also extended our outreach and marketing efforts statewide, and are continuing our collaborative outreach with the Worcester Talking Book Library. We were also successful in adding a new newspaper to the Newsline talking newspaper program serving borrowers living in southeastern Massachusetts. The Patriot Ledger, a major daily newspaper in this region was added and has become one of the all-time favorite publications on the Newsline telephone-based service.*

*For FY15 we are respectfully requesting a 2.5% increase of $61,385. This will help the Perkins Library to maintain existing operations, cover the cost of living needs, and to allow continuation of our much needed outreach and marketing to the 100,000 individuals eligible to use the service, but who are not aware it exists.*

*In addition, this funding will help us to expand hours of operation - with a view toward equalizing availability of the Talking Book Program services across the state, the Perkins Library would like to put forward a two-year phase-in plan for expanding the hours we are open to the public. Presently, we are open from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM Monday-Friday (except holidays), for a total of 42.5 hours per week. We are proposing increasing our hours of operation over two years from the current 42.5 to 51 hours per week.*

*Perkins is requesting a 2.5% increase or an additional $61,385 for the appropriation to line item 7000-9406 amounting to a total proposed appropriation figure of $2,516,793.00 for FY2015. We realize the position of so many other Board of Library Commissioners accounts being under-funded. We support their growth as well. To meet our cost of living expenses, increase and equalize our availability to the public, and prevent any erosion of funding levels or service delivery in FY 2015 this cost of living is critical.*

***Service Priorities***

*Continued Delivery of Accessible Library Materials and Services - Ensuring the provision of braille, audio books and magazines, new digital materials and equipment, accessible reference, children's programming and audio described videos to 25,000 current users through the loan of specialized materials. Funding at the $2,516,793 level will allow for the enrollment of hundreds of additional patrons.*

***Newsline Service*** *- Continued funding support is also needed to maintain the availability of the Newsline program for over 2,400 daily users who access it through a touch-tone telephone, desktop computer or with a new iPhone app, 24 hours a day; 7 days a week. Listeners have access to everything from major newspapers like the Boston Globe, the Boston Herald, the Berkshire Eagle, the Cape Cod Times, the Lowell Sun, the Worcester Telegram & Gazette, the Springfield Republican, the Patriot Ledger, and smaller community papers like the North Adams Transcript, the Fitchburg Sentinel & Enterprise, Watertown Tab & Press, and the Nashoba Public Spirit. This service is priceless to its listeners who can access current information. Listeners stay connected and engaged in their communities and to the news of the nation. Telecommunications costs to offer this valuable service are also rising, and must be met to cover toll-free and local access dial-in numbers used by patrons to call into Newsline.*

***Ongoing Collection Development Activities*** *- The Perkins Library is continuing to add new titles, purchased from commercial sources when possible or produced in the Library's recording studio and braille production program. When a relevant book isn't available in a specialized format, and it would be a strong addition to the collection, the Perkins Library is able to produce it in an audio format or in braille.*

***Downloadable Digital Books*** *- Continuing the transition to digital materials, the Perkins Library is also offering access to digital versions of its talking books for borrowers with adaptive technology. We are also continuing our involvement with the development and testing of a smart phone app for downloading digital books from the Library's BARD Program (Braille & Audio Reading Download). This app should be available in the fall of 2013.*

*In closing, as you know, there are few other resources for our borrowers to turn to when seeking accessible information in braille, large print, audio, described video, or electronic formats. Ensuring equal access to information and literature for our borrowers is vital for their continued enjoyment of reading, intellectual enrichment, education, professional growth and lifelong learning. We ask for your continued consideration of the talking book program and the people we serve in the MBLC Legislative Agenda for FY 2015. Our recommendation of $2,516,793 was carefully considered and reflects our current position and need to maintain where we are and not to see any erosion.*

*Thank you for your consideration.*

*Kim Charlson, Library Director*

*Perkins Braille & Talking Book Library*

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**Chuck Flaherty, Town Librarian, Public Library of Brookline (Presentation Summary)**

* Funding for compensation for net lends needs to be restored.
* Concern about the number of libraries that may need waivers of the Municipal Appropriation Requirement.

Chairman Murphy thanked everyone for their testimony and comments.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chairman Murphy adjourned the September 12, 2013 open forum meeting of the Board of Library Commissioners at 2:30 P.M.

Gregory J. Shesko

Secretary