

**Orange Public Library Board of Trustees Meeting  
Thursday September 14, 2023**

**Meeting was called to order at 6:45pm**

**Roll Call:**

**President-**

**Vice President- Jonathan Beckford- Present**

**Trustee- David McKnight- Present**

**Secretary- Theresa Mason- Present**

**Mayors Alternate- Louis Copeland-Present**

**Karen Harris- Absent**

**Attorney- Dan Smith- Present**

**April Cruz- Present**

**Renee (CWA) – Present**

**Weldon Montague III (City Council) – Present (liaison to library)**

**Clifford Ross (City Council) - Present**

**Kerry Coley (City Council) – Present**

**Charles Bermer- Citizen**

**Towana Thomas- Citizen**

**Gerald Murphy-Citizen**

**Floor open to visitors**

**Renee- June-July pension up, requesting information on employees  
Bookkeeper-, \$18,000, why the pension wasn't paid for members**

**Louise- board sent a letter to Renee**

**Louis- Finance \$44,000 transfer to public library; finding ct rate of 2022 yr  
\$44,000, 39,000, 83,000 will allow \_\_\_\_\_ moving forward**

**Weldon- we can apply for grant, the city should not be funding library**

**David- building and grounds report, library close for a couple days; because it was over  
85 degree, library is waiting for parts to come in for air condition**

**David- Motion to accept minutes; community reports  
2<sup>nd</sup> Theresa Mason**

**Minutes from August 10, 2023, only approving April's minutes**

**Johnathan- requesting a list of all money due to pension**

**David- Motion to accept directors**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Therese Mason**

**All in favor (I)**

**Close session 7:22pm**

**Louis- nature of claim with State of NJ  
Maintenance worker**

Email letter to Johnathan about terminating him  
Johnathan – at city council hearing meeting  
Replacing, attorney bookkeeper  
Hostile work environment  
Board has to do a resolution \_\_\_\_\_ comments only board didn't condom it.

2<sup>nd</sup> (Louis) File a law suit against Johnathan, Stephanie about stealing money, making accusation publicly about stealing and deformation  
April's position isn't going to be touch, Dan it's not going nowhere and Romon it's going no where

6 months to conduct an investigation

David- how do we investigate Stephanie saying she went to Dan

Louis- slander, harassment, hostile work environment

David- was following the law

David- I told \_\_\_\_\_ to call Dan

Louis- public service having power still have to abide by the law; don't have the right to play with people lively hood

Louis- her suspension was recorded 2wks pending investigation; no one objective to her suspension.

Think about all the things that are true and how to deal with it, dockets, given to Dan including notes, texts statement by Louis, Stephanie, Romon, Johnathan Beckford, Janet,

Louis notes: Stephanie email, termination letter justification omits board voted; Romona still not in the union

Therese- are we going to fire her

Dan- this is about litigation

Johnathan- I haven't said anything to anyone out side

Johnathan- How you all spoke to he isn't that hostile

Louis- extremely frustrated by her breaking the laws

Louis- she doesn't have the best interest of the library

We will do a resolution say we were not aware of Johnathan making comments

Louis- September 19, 2023 city council is going to adopt budget

Requesting special meeting

Dan- move to table bills

Louis- we know what the employees' pension bill is

Louis- insurance \_\_\_\_\_ because progress on roof

Therese- who's going to provide a complete bill list

Louis- TaQuisha

Change any position at this moment Johnathan has to be reprimanded we are all one and speak together

Johnathan- Motion to come out of close session

2<sup>nd</sup> David

David – ask about electrical sparks

Narine- it's not sparking anymore need an electrician

Louis- ask her to send an email to have electrician come look at the electric David or

Johnathan

**David- Stephanie we was talking to Narine about light switch, can you please send an email to Louis so someone can come look at the lights**

**Louis- Motion to table bill list until September 21, 2023**

**Stephanie- are we going to have another motion**

**1<sup>st</sup> Louis**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Johnathan**

**Louis- If budgets adopted on the 19<sup>th</sup> we can pay our bills**

**Stephanie- \$127, 00 that we are \_\_\_\_\_ immediately why can't they give it to us**

**Louis- they are not confident in what's going on in the library, talking to other people and not being on one page we will get back to you about going to speak to them**

**Motion to have special meet on September 21, 2023 by zoom**

**Louis- motion to acknowledge comments by board members Johnathan at council meeting September 5, 2023; board doesn't support his comments were made on his own**

**Verbal reprimand was given to Johnathan by the board**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Theresa Mason**

**David- we have to mindful of what we say**

**Louis- be straight forward Dan, April, Romon, that should stop**

**Louis- we will table all that**

**Stephanie- my complaint against board member for harassment**

**Dan – executive session**

**Stephanie- I will email it to all**

**Louis- motion to table old business**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Theresa Mason**

**Louis- motion to table new business**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Theresa Mason**

**Stephanie- letter about being sued**

**Dan- she mention letter about Ms. Basto being sued**

**Stephanie- it might be problem if it doesn't make the newspaper because we are just sending it**

**Dan- were you instructed to send back to post office**

**Stephanie- no**

**Dan- in the future somebody has to sign**

**Please note: Stephanie very argumentative with board members**

**Louis or Johnathan- meeting adjourn 9:06pm**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Theresa Mason**