

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
Bernards Township Library**

The Bernards Township Library Board of Trustees monthly meeting will be conducted using Zoom Video Conferencing on Wednesday, April 29, 2020, at 7:30 PM, in order to avoid potential impacts from COVID 19. Anyone who wishes to "attend" this telephonic meeting may do so by calling the following number:

1-646-558-8656, enter Meeting ID: 862-0589-7708

or join on a computer:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86205897708?pwd=cDQ1OW5gazcwTm8xU2V3REk0bjFQZz09>

enter Password: 074199

Please announce yourself once you are on the line.

AGENDA

1. Call to order
2. Sunshine Law Reminder
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Roll Call
5. Public Comment
6. Approval of Minutes:
 - March 18, 2020 special meeting
 - March 29, 2020 regular meeting
7. President's Report
8. Director's Report
9. Committee Reports (all other reports are suspended for this meeting)
 - Personnel – Mary Jane McNally, Cynthia Yin
 - Adoption of Resolution to acknowledge the retirement of Ann Babits, Supervising Librarian-Adult Circulation
 - Adoption of Resolution of Personnel Appointment of Carol Franc, full-time Senior Library Technician, Technical Services
10. New Business – Discussion of the Library's response to potential legislation furloughing state employees to take advantage of enhanced Federal unemployment benefits. Please read the synopsis on the next page before the meeting.
11. Public Comment
12. Adjournment

**Next meeting will be on Wednesday, May 27, 2020.
7:30 P.M.**

Please advise if you cannot attend.

New Jersey's highest-ranking state lawmaker is preparing for the layoffs of as many as tens of thousands of state and local government employees by ensuring they will be able to qualify for the enhanced unemployment benefits extended by the federal government.

The provision, included in a bill proposal from Senate President Stephen Sweeney, would potentially soften the blow to civil servants and shows the scale of the deficits that officials are expecting because of how deeply the shutdown of the state's economy is hammering tax collections.

The legislation seeks to provide employees the "maximum possible benefits" while generating budget savings if the state and its municipalities move to furlough workers amid massive budget gaps from the coronavirus pandemic.

The Employee Job-Sharing Furlough Protection Act that will be introduced by senators Sweeney, Nellie Pou and Steven Oroho seeks to capitalize on the federal CARES Act that they say would put more money into the pockets of employees who are furloughed and secure federal financing of unemployment benefits, according to a draft of the bill.

The legislation would save state and local governments in New Jersey \$750 million over a three-month period if 25% of 400,000 state and local employees are furloughed, according to a memo summarizing the proposal. The state hasn't instituted any furloughs as of Monday.

States and cities are grappling with plummeting tax revenues as businesses are shuttered amid the coronavirus outbreak. More than 22 million people have been thrown out of work in the past four weeks alone. At the same time, the demand for municipal resources is soaring. The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities projects a historic \$500 billion shortfall for states through June 2022, while a survey of 2,400 local officials found nearly all of them expect deficits.

The proposed legislation would guarantee that future pension benefits won't be affected by furloughs and seniority will continue to accrue and also provide a "pre-qualification" for unemployment benefits to avoid any income interruption.

A segment of the Federal Pandemic Employment Compensation legislation provides for an unemployment payment of \$600 per week in addition to the amount of state unemployment benefits determined by state law. Under New Jersey furlough law, employers must pay employees between 40% and 90% of their previous salary and continue pension, health coverage and other benefits during the period of the furlough.

For employees making \$76,500 or less, wages combined with state unemployment benefits and the additional \$600 federal payment would provide more take-home pay than they would receive from working, according to the memo.