

MINUTES OF A PUBLIC HEARING AND REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES
OF THE BARRINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

A Public Hearing and Regular Meeting of the Board of Library Trustees of the Barrington Public Library District was held on November 9, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Barrington Area Library pursuant to notices sent to the board and the press on November 5, 2009.

Present and acting as trustees:

Richard J. Ryan, President
Donald F. Minner, Vice President
Henry G. Wisniewski, Treasurer
Carolyn Welch Clifford, Secretary
Barbara Pintozzi

Absent was:

Lawrence Jay Weiner

Also in attendance were:

Detlev Pansch, Executive Director
Bob Webb, BETA
Linda Webb
Lloyd McCarthy
Mary McCarthy
Marilyn Diedericksen
Carol Schubert
Jim Perille
Darlene Boyle
J.G. (Last name illegible)
John Clark
Bernadine Palke
Faye Sinnott, Friends of the Library
Betty O'Grady, staff

President Ryan called the Public Hearing to order at 7:00 p.m. He called for comments from the audience. He stated that the taxes would either stay the same or go down. Last year one person's taxes increased by \$10.00; another's by \$20.00. He said that the library is the lowest taxing body on their tax bill.

The board doesn't know how much additional capital it will have to work with, so to be comfortable a balloon levy is done to allow for the new property coming on to the tax rolls. It is not known how much that is, but we are under the tax cap.

Several members of the audience spoke. Mr. Perille stated that he has lived in the area for 41 years and was chairman of the Fox Point Homeowners Association. He also was President of BETA.

He had never seen the economy as bad as it is now. Many people have lost jobs. He recommended reducing the amount the library is asking for. Last year the board added \$546,000.00 and brought up a tax level that is excessive. In these conditions it is too much.

Mr. Perille suggested that the board help the homeowners and go in for a tax levy reduced to one or two million. This would be a lowering of taxes for everybody when they need it and is a positive thing to do. I see no reason to follow the path you have been doing.

He stated that he had long supported the Friends of the Library but was not able to support the school district entirely. The library is well run and he enjoys using it. But it would be a good thing to show some strength.

Mr. Ryan said that the board has two or three funds which it is not levying at all. Circulation will probably hit a million this year. There are more people than ever coming in and out.

An audience member said "The library should reduce its tax. I would like you to reduce the levy by 2 million. It would be a great gesture in these times."

A woman asked "How did you come up with that figure?" Mr. Ryan said that that is the extension; not the levy. A budget is drafted and reviewed.

The woman replied that when you add on all this together you are going to go for the maximum.

Mr. Ryan talked about the LAC facility. He said the library still lacks storage space. There is a time table, but the board could think about this.

Ms. Clifford noted that there are certain costs such as IMRF.

An audience member said he had voted for the referendum for schools, etc. When the library asks for an increase over what the budget was last year he would never vote for it. Whatever the library is asking for, it is setting itself up for failure in the future.

Bob Webb suggested a 0% increase. He talked about the economy. All of the entities go for whatever they can get.

Mr. Ryan stated that the board tried to build up a little fund for buying some property. \$900,000 was the cost of the property but it was needed in order to eventually expand this building. There are easements across the property, and the Village wants to keep its water tower there. The board has been building up reserves for that reason.

If the money stops coming in, the library could keep going for a year, but it will have to stop doing some things that the public is used to.

Another audience member said "The consumer price index is not going up. Housing values are going down by \$200,000. The library has a good reputation. Don't destroy it. Don't go down the road like the school board. The state and the pension funds are controlled by the unions."

Mr. Ryan said that the prevailing wage determines that the library must pay what is stated there. He asked about the time limit with the county.

Jim Perille asked, "Isn't it simple to lower them? It could be marked down to the same level as last year or lower. All you have to do is lower it."

Ms. Clifford advised that the board might not meet the state's requirement.

Mr. Ryan did not want to go to 0%. He understood what the audience would like to see, but did not know how the board could go that far.

A man in the audience suggested saving money on the book budget by not purchasing so many copies of the same book.

Mr. Ryan stated that another meeting will be held to look into what may be done and see if it will make the audience happier. The board told the audience that their comments were appreciated. The visitors left.

President Ryan adjourned the Public Hearing. He called the Regular Meeting to order.

The board discussed the requests received from the public. Mr. Minner said that the board is justifying what it has done. It could discuss what could be done, and see if the levy can be adjusted down a modest amount.

December 1 is the deadline. Mr. Pansch said he would find out tomorrow what the board has to do. Then a Special Meeting will be held. No levy ordinance will be adopted tonight.

Mr. Ryan called for comments and/or corrections on the minutes of October 12. There were none. Mr. Wisniewski moved, and Mr. Minner seconded, to approve those minutes.

Ayes: Ryan, Minner, Wisniewski, Clifford, Pintozzi
Nays: 0
Absent: Weiner
Motion CARRIED.

Ordinance 2009-8, an Ordinance Adopting an Intergovernmental Agreement Providing for Risk Management and Authorizing Membership in the Library Insurance Management and Risk Control Combination (LIMRiCC) as Amended, was reviewed. Ms. Pintozzi moved, and Mr. Wisniewski seconded, to approve Ordinance 2009-8.

Ayes: Ryan, Minner, Wisniewski, Clifford, Pintozzi
Nays: 0
Absent: Weiner
Motion CARRIED.

The letter to the Village regarding Lake Zurich Road was discussed. Trustee Weiner had suggested revisions which were incorporated into the letter.

Resumes from trustee candidates were distributed to the board. They will be studied and a meeting will be scheduled for interviews. Mr. Pansch advised that the resumes would be discussed at the next meeting.

Mr. Wisniewski presented the Treasurer's report. Beginning balance was \$5,550,811.87. Receipts were \$74,130.13 and expenditures \$361,327.68, leaving an ending balance of \$5,263,614.32. This ending balance is \$113,676.19 greater than that of one year ago. Ms. Clifford moved, and Ms. Pintozzi seconded, to accept the Treasurer's report and approve bills for payment as submitted by the Executive Director.

Ayes: Ryan, Minner, Wisniewski, Clifford, Pintozzi
Nays: 0
Absent: Weiner
Motion CARRIED.

Ms. Pintozzi presented the Arts Advisory Committee report.

Mr. Pansch presented the Executive Director's report. He is still trying to select a maintenance shed. He will meet with the architect at a place called Garage World. The architect was able to bring the price under \$20,000.00.

At the beginning of December, lockers will be installed at the Library Activity Center. Currently, if someone orders books they are kept in the office.

A trench is needed to bring AT&T's line into the building. The cost will be \$9,650.00. Mr. Wisniewski moved, and Mr. Minner seconded, to approve up to \$12,000.00 for the trench.

Ayes: Ryan, Minner, Wisniewski, Clifford, Pintozzi

Nays: 0

Absent: Weiner

Motion CARRIED.

A free Comcast line will be brought to the library.

Mr. Pansch spoke with staff at the Field House about a book drop. A good spot was found.

The board discussed the possibility of having a book drop at this building. It would avoid traffic tie-ups at the entrance. Mr. Pansch promised to address the subject with the architect when he meets with him.

Mr. Pansch said he would call the Automation Committee about an IT upgrade.

Ms. Sinnott presented the Friends of the Library report. Having the book sign up helped to bring in many more books for the sale. The Friends are participating in "Shop for a Cause." Soon an election of officers will be held, and Ms. Sinnott's term will expire after the election.

Mr. Minner asked about the Holiday Party. Mr. Pansch said that a lunch would be served to the staff on the in-service day. Mr. Pansch went over what was planned for the in-service day.

Under Communications, Mr. Ryan received a letter about the tax levy.

The board agreed there was no need for an Executive Session. Mr. Minner moved, and Mr. Ryan seconded, to adjourn.

Ayes: Ryan, Minner, Wisniewski, Clifford, Pintozzi

Nays: 0

Absent: Weiner

Motion CARRIED. Adjournment was at 8:59 p.m.

Carolyn Welch Clifford, Secretary

