

Minutes January 26, 2016

Edward U. Demmer Memorial Library

**Special meeting of the Library Board of Trustees**

Trustee Attendance: Dianna Blicharz, Steve Garbowicz, Paul Kaiser, Catherine Marshall, Kathleen Olkowski, Vicki Reuling

Absent: Laura Wipperman

Other Attendees: Erica Brewster, Ken Klein

Vicki Reuling called the Library Board meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

**Agenda:**

Motion by Catherine Marshall, seconded by Dianna Blicharz, to approve the agenda in any order. All ayes, motion carried.

**Discuss Joint meeting with Three Lakes Town Supervisors:**

- Paul Kaiser described the library is one of the top five buildings/attractions in the town. He also recognized the other needs of the town. He wondered if this project truly hamstringing the Town's ability to address other financial issues for the next 10 years?
- Kathleen Olkowski suggested the Trustees consider looking at what we can do with the \$1 million rather than waiting for years to see if we can raise the funds. Consider plans that include opportunities for future expansion.
- Dianna Blicharz insisted people of the Town should have an opportunity to have a say as to whether they want this project or not.
- Catherine Marshall is reluctant to give up on the idea – on what we could have. The Town Board has not made an effort to “sell” a plan or properly poll the citizenry.
- Steve Garbowicz commented on the continued existence of the Town building prohibits expansion to the north – do we limit ourselves by moving ahead and missing an opportunity? He also commented on the conflict of splitting approval of a joint building between a meeting of the electors (in April) and a referendum (in August).
- There has been no (useful) discussion of the Food Pantry or the Historical Society on the part of the Town Board.

**Discuss options/alternatives for building renovations:**

- An amount of the building expansion project includes necessary maintenance and code updates. Erica spoke with Sue, and they suggest approaching the Town to cover costs for necessary maintenance.
- Discussion of how much expansion would be possible if the Town building remained in place.
- The Historical Society has made a motion to direct building funds to the library, rather than to the Town, for their participation in any building project.
- Kathleen made the point that regardless of how this works out, we should continue to make the effort to collaborate with the Town and to create and maintain a good working relationship. That is an area that has never been good, and should not be sacrificed in this process.

**Upcoming decisions:**

- Are we going to go out to an architect again? If so, do we go back to Becher-Hoppe, or another firm?
- An assessment on the maintenance needs. What would the charge be to have an appraisal done?
- What would the Town have to offer to meet the library in the middle?
  - o Vicki: if the Town agrees to cover the costs of *necessary* (code updates, ADA, basic building maintenance) updates.

- Direction of the board: director will call Becher-Hoppe and see if they can complete a site assessment – what would the cost be, timeframe for completion, etc.

**Public Comment:**

Vicki encouraged all the board members attend the Town Board meeting at 5:30 on Tuesday, February 2.

Motion by Dianna Blicharz, seconded by Catherine, to adjourn the Library Board meeting. All ayes. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Erica Brewster, Director