

Minutes March 10, 2016

Edward U. Demmer Memorial Library

Library Board of Trustees Meeting – **Joint Meeting with Town of Three Lakes Supervisors**

Trustee Attendance: Dianna Blicharz, Catherine Marshall, Kathleen Olkowski, Vicki Reuling

Town Board Supervisors attendance: Dr. Bill Martineau, Ed Starke, Pat Volk, Stella Westfall.

Absent: Paul Kaiser, Steve Garbowicz, Laura Wipperman

Other Attendees: Erica Brewster (Library), Sue Harris (Town)

Vicki Reuling called the Library Board meeting to order at 5:47 p.m.

Agenda:

Motion by Trustee Olkowski, seconded by Trustee Blicharz, to approve the agenda in any order. All ayes, motion carried.

Discuss Town Office, Police, Library, and Historical Society building project:

Brief history of project: Town Chair Westfall gave a brief history of the Town Office building planning project, including an itemized listing of the physical deficiencies of the structure and the process taken to develop a design proposal.

Library Board President Reuling followed with a timeline history of the library needs assessment and design development. A hardcopy version was included as a handout to board members and public.

Discussion to clarify intent: Chair Westfall stated the intended outcome of the project was one building, as a \$2.7 million joint project. President Reuling asked if there would be the opportunity to go to the voters to ask for their input. Supervisor Volk presented a statement itemizing other town costs and priorities, and priorities beyond those of the Town, including the school. He then expressed concern about asking tax payers to approve further spending on the library building when they were going to be burdened by these costs and other tax obligations. Following further discussion, Chair Westfall stated that the Library Board should develop a design with the \$1 million they had available. Trustee Blicharz asked if the organizations that support the Food Pantry had been approached to participate financially in the process, and strongly recommended the Town invite their participation. In response to the Town's concern about assuring frugality in a shared building design, President Reuling and other Trustees encouraged the Town Board to consider the lower level of the library as a possible permanent location for the future Town Board room.

Clarify mandates: The process for approving funds for construction of public buildings is defined in state statute (Wis. Stat. 60.10 (2) (f)) as requiring a vote of the electors at a posted special town meeting of the electors. Therefore, the Town cannot use a binding referendum for project approve. They can use an advisory referendum to get feedback prior to holding a special meeting of the electors.

Discussion followed regarding the opportunity to hold an advisory referendum at the August 9 primary. Supervisor Martineau expressed concern that it would be difficult to craft referendum questions. Chair Westfall stated that it would be of the Town's interest to pursue referendum questions. Supervisor Martineau stated that the Town should put together info on what projects the Town would be obligated to get loans on over the next 10 years and make that information available to the public.

Clarifying costs: Chair Westfall made it clear that while the Town did strongly support pursuing a joint building, she did not believe the Town should be responsible for any part of the library's construction costs, other than possibly some small contingencies, approximately \$100k. The Town's breakdown for the project would be as follows:

\$2.7 million total project cost

- \$1.6 million for the Town office building (including the police department, food pantry, town office space, and meeting room space) – financed from the tax levy following approval from the electorate
- \$1.0 million for the Library building – financed through private donations to the Three Lakes Public Library Foundation
- \$0.1 million (\$100,000) for the Historical Society addition – financed through private donations to the Historical Society

The Library Board asked about following the final Becher-Hoppe proposal, which would be as follows:

\$3.6 million total project cost

- \$1.6 million for the Town office building (including the police department, food pantry, town office space, and meeting room space) – financed from the tax levy following approval from the electorate
- \$0.9 million for the Library building – financed from the tax levy following approval from the electorate
- \$1.0 million for the Library building – financed through private donations to the Three Lakes Public Library Foundation
- \$0.1 million (\$100,000) for the Historical Society addition – financed through private donations to the Historical Society

Chair Westfall restated the Town Board's position that they were not comfortable asking the tax payers to front the additional cost, but would consider referendum questions to that effect.

Next steps:

- Clerk Sue Harris will discuss a plan for a revised concept to include \$1 million renovation/expansion for the Demmer Library
- Clerk Harris and Director Erica Brewster will develop draft advisory referendum questions to be brought to the boards for review.
- Another special joint meeting will be scheduled for before the Town Annual meeting on April 19.

Public Comment:

Several comments were made, including requests for clarification of total project costs, time frame for auxiliary building and municipal parking lot, and ADA and maintenance needs to the library. Comment was also made about the Town Board considering the consequences investment on of the attractiveness of the town to newcomers and potential business owners.

Motion by Trustee Marshall, seconded by Trustee Blicharz, to adjourn the Library Board meeting. All ayes. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Erica Brewster, Director