

April 28, 1969

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees (postponed from April 9th) of the Skokie Public Library, held April 28, 1969, in the Conference Room of the Library, at 7:30 p.m.

Members present: Mmes. Diana Hunter and Selma Petty, Messrs. Donald Kraft and Richard Lindberg, Rabbi Karl Weiner and Dr. John Wozniak, Miss Mary Radmacher, Chief Librarian.

Also present: Mrs. Joseph Beaver and Mrs. Milton Estes, observers for the League of Women Voters.

Minutes of the previous meeting held March 12, 1969 were approved as distributed.

Rabbi Weiner, President, stated that this meeting would be conducted by the old officers and, at the meeting in May, election of new officers would be held. He further stated that with the additional member on the Board of Trustees, it will be necessary to change the present by-laws and asked Mrs. Selma Petty, Secretary of the Board, to make the necessary changes.

Financial statements for the General Operating Budget, Reserve Fund for the Purchase of Sites and Buildings and Statement of Appropriations and Expenditures to Date were accepted and ordered to be placed on file. Discussion was held of whether it is permissible to borrow from the Reserve Fund as a temporary measure to pay bills for the General Operating Budget.

Motion by Mrs. Petty seconded by Dr. Wozniak:

Motion: That the list of bills in the amount of nine thousand four hundred fifty-six dollars and fifty-seven cents (\$9,456.57) be approved for payment.

All ayes.

Circulation report for the month of March, 1969 was approved and ordered to be placed on file.

The Librarian submitted a list of bills, totaling \$6,485.00, which could not

be paid due to depletion of funds. She also informed the Board that book purchasing had been curtailed since November, 1968 and the problem of competition in salaries was facing the Library. A comparison of the professional salary scale of the Chicago Public Library and Skokie Public Library was submitted to the Board. Miss Radmacher stated that the solution lies in a tax rate increase. She further stated that the following should be considered: increase fines from 2¢ to 3¢ per day; increase non-resident fees from \$15.00 to \$17.50; and seek benefactors by contacting business and industry and recommending that attorneys be reminded of suggesting the Library to their clients when writing their wills. Mr. Kraft stated his approval of raising the fines. Dr. Wozniak suggested asking for any surplus in the sales tax to be turned over to the Library. The Bill concerning the erecting of municipal buildings without a referendum was discussed and the Librarian stated she would send copies of the status of the bill to the members.

There was discussion about contacting business and industrial firms and seeking grants from foundations. Rabbi Weiner appointed a Finance Committee of three members, Donald Kraft, Diana Hunter and Richard Lindberg to explore such possibilities and report to the Board for whatever action should be taken.

Rabbi Weiner speaking of the building program informed the Board that he had been invited to meet with Harland Bartholomew and Associates, the planning group for the Village. He briefly outlined the present plans of moving the Village Hall further west, to face the Library across the Village Green, and opening Floral Avenue south of Oakton. Mention was made of relocating the post office and creating a building tall enough so it could also be used for the county court. Rabbi Weiner feels this would be quite exciting for downtown Skokie since the bank is ready to proceed with an impressive new building. If the planners have their work completed in time, it might help the Library with their referendum. He stated that as the Library keeps on postponing having a referendum, which was done first, because of the question of the site and, secondly, because of the possibility of the election

of a new Board at the Village, the facilities of the Library are becoming more inadequate. He reported that he had talked with the Mayor and Village attorney to get their advice on a possibility of finding enough money for a partial expansion to the south of the present building, since we do not have the needed \$150,000 to \$200,000 in our Reserve Fund.

Rabbi Weiner stated at this point some action should be taken as to the selection of a legal counsel for this Board. Mr. Harvey Schwartz had been contacted several months ago to serve in this capacity which he agreed to do tentatively. Rabbi Weiner stated that the questions were: first, whether Mr. Harvey Schwartz should be considered at all; second, seek to engage him as our legal counsel; and third, whether we should seek to negotiate on a fee basis. Rabbi Weiner asked for a show of hands concerning whether to negotiate with Harvey Schwartz for some arrangement of being available as the Library's legal counsel. By a show of hands this was unanimously aye. Second, offer him a position of being the legal counsel of the Skokie Public Library. By a show of hands there were two ayes and three nays. Rabbi Weiner asked Dr. Wozniak to join him for an appointment with Harvey Schwartz to sit down and see if he could be had on an ad hoc basis.

At this point Rabbi Weiner returned to the subject of the building program and the scale for a time table which is dependent upon the present Board's willingness to continue along the line of building a partial expansion at a cost of \$150,000 to \$200,000. Miss Radmacher briefly outlined the plans for the addition to the south end of the present building. Discussion of the financing for this building was held and it was explained that because the State gives libraries permission to accumulate a reserve fund for sites and buildings from unexpended funds, this Library has had a reserve fund. Mr. Kraft further explained that the Library had considered at great length all the alternatives such as using the building next door and buying second hand mobile class rooms, but the end result was to do something of a permanent nature that would tie in with the new building. The lease-purchase idea was considered

as was the idea of spreading payments over a two year period. Several contractors have been approached and they are willing to accept the contract on a two-year pay basis. The present problem is that the Library must find some money to do the job. Following Dr. Wozniak's mention of grants and funds which might be available, Miss Radmacher explained about the Federal grants to libraries which is administered through the State Library, and read a letter received from Mr. James Beasley, Acting Deputy State Librarian, on the lack of LSCA funds for the next fiscal year.

Copies of the 1969-1970 Budget were distributed and Mr. Kraft made the following motion seconded by Mrs. Hunter.

Motion: That the 1969-1970 Budget in the amount of four hundred ninety-five thousand seven hundred dollars (\$495,700) be approved by the Skokie Public Library Board of Directors.

All ayes.

Miss Radmacher reporting on activity at the North Suburban Library System explained the Pilot Project which Skokie Public Library has been approached to initiate in the area of American literature. Guide lines will be written by the NSLS, reviewed by the Librarian, and submitted to the Board for reviewing and approval.

Miss Radmacher distributed copies of a memorandum from Mr. Howard Hummer reporting on the last Board meeting of the System and the election of officers. She explained to the new Board members the reason Skokie Public Library is desirous of having the contract from the System for the reference service is because of the extent and value of its reference collection and willingness and enthusiasm of the Adult Services Department to do the job. Rabbi Weiner explained that he and Miss Radmacher had a meeting with Mr. McClarren and Mr. Born for discussion of this service at which time the points mentioned above were made clear.

The Skokie Fine Arts Festival was discussed and Rabbi Weiner explained that Skokie Public Library has been in complete cooperation with them in every way.

The Laconi Annual Trustees meeting was discussed and the Librarian reported that Mrs. Petty and some staff members had attended.

The Librarian reported on the National Library Week program for fourth graders. It was a Folk Literature Festival conducted by the Young People's and Children's staff. There were three programs daily, Monday through Friday, to audiences of 90 to 125 for each program. Mrs. Petty stated that Miss Burmeister should be highly complimented on the programs, and Rabbi Weiner reported a compliment he had received on the programs.

The meeting was adjourned on motion by Mrs. Petty seconded by Dr. Wozniak.

Selma Petty Sec.
Selma Petty *SP* Secretary