

July 1, 1963

Report on a joint meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Skokie and the Board of Trustees of the Skokie Public Library held July 1, 1963, at 8:00 p.m., in the Lecture Room of the Skokie Public Library.

Present: Members of the Board of Trustees of the Skokie Public Library as follows: Conroy V. Erickson, Mrs. W. C. Griffin, L. O. Green, Mrs. Daniel Petty, Louis Weingart, and Miss Mary Radmacher, Librarian. Village Board members and representatives present were as follows: Messrs. Berger, Glink, Kaegi, Mudd, Wozniak, and Mayor Greisdorf, President of the Board.

Also present: Mrs. Jean Doney, of The News, Jerry Blaz, of The Life, and Mrs. Maryruth Sarver, business secretary for the Library.

Mayor Greisdorf explained that his request for a joint meeting arose from the fact that combined meetings of these two Boards were too infrequent. Such meetings should be held from time to time by the Village Board with the various tax bodies. This is not due to lack of assurance on his part that the facilities are run efficiently, he further stated, but, because their operations affect the economy of the Village, a closer unity should be maintained. He explained that his desire for this meeting was prompted by two reasons: (1) Confusion in his mind of what, exactly, the Village Board has to do with the Library and its budget; and (2) he is interested in the item of the \$72,000 being set aside in the reserve fund for construction of a branch library. He stated his affirmation that a branch is needed, but strongly urged that the Library Board make use of the Village Department of Community Development and Planning. Also, that the Library Board take into consideration working with the School Boards, etc. about a branch library or other branches on school campuses, or adjacent to them, so that there will be dual use of parking facilities

and other areas of tax facilities. The Village is planning to buy land in the southwest end of the town and there might be some thought given to buying a larger piece of land and sharing combined facilities with each group. Consideration might be given to this and development go on from there.

Mr. Green thanked the Mayor for his thoughtfulness, and clarified the Library Board's reason for wishing to set up the reserve by stating that there is increasing pressure for a branch library or libraries. Recently the Home Owners' Council had discussed with him the idea of expansion of this library, if possible. Mr. Green remarked that vacant property in Skokie is almost non-existent, and the expense of condemning property is much greater than buying vacant property which is available. The Library Board is reluctant to attempt to float a bond issue at this time. He further explained that, prior to this session of the Legislature, the only way to build a library was to have a bond issue. However, this session of the Legislature provided for a building reserve fund through Division 48.1, Article 11, of Senate Bill 30, stating that libraries, with the approval of the Trustees of the Village, may transfer any unexpended funds from their operating budget to a reserve fund for the construction of libraries. A library can transfer any surplus remaining in its budget to such a fund, once the Village Board approves establishing this reserve fund. The Skokie Public Library, over the past three years, had acquired a surplus of over \$70,000 which came from various sources such as salaries set up for which personnel could not be hired. Mr. White, treasurer of the Village, had pointed out that this surplus would be deducted from the tax levy. The Library Board felt it would be much better to set this surplus into a reserve fund, thus giving the Library an opportunity to acquire a considerable fund for the purchase of property for a branch library without the necessity of a bond issue referendum.

Mayor Greisdorf asked if the Board had explored the possibility of working with the schools. Mr. Green assured him they had. Mr. Louis Weingart

told of the Library Board meeting Dr. Parker had attended where many problems had been discussed.

A discussion followed about the number of acres needed to build a branch which was determined to be about two acres; also the possibility of condemning the properties between the Village Hall Parking Lot and the Library, with the idea of enlarging the present library building and continuing eastward so that the village parking facilities, etc. could be used. This location is in the center of town and to enlarge the present library building might prove to be more advantageous and less expensive than to build branches. The question was raised as to whether the Village of Skokie is large enough in area to warrant the building of branches. Miss Radmacher stated, according to ALA standards, "Yes."

Mayor Greisdorf asked whether the branch would serve only young people - but the answer was "no, for all ages." There was discussion at this point about spending money to duplicate volumes already acquired instead of widening the scope and installing audio visual equipment - in other words using money for duplication. Mr. Erickson stated it would, in effect, be a question of stocking this library more fully or building a branch and stocking it. Mayor Greisdorf asked whether the Library Board, at this time, had made a decision to buy property and build a branch. Mr. Green answered, "Yes, and the trustees have located an available property." He explained that the Library Board feels it has a duty to all people, old and young alike.

The fact was mentioned that it would be a help if the school libraries were kept open longer and more frequently. Mayor Greisdorf mentioned this is a point where he felt all those interested could meet.

The question was projected by Mayor Greisdorf whether, at this point in the library development, the community is best served by erecting a building instead of buying more books. The answer from Miss Radmacher was that Skokie Public Library is cataloging as many books as possible with the present

personnel, space and equipment. Mr. Berger asked the question, "If the Library is unable to staff this building to capacity, how can the administration expect to get help for a branch library?" Miss Radmacher agreed this would be difficult but explained that careers in this field are being pursued more now than in the past. The question was raised whether "on-the-job" catalogers or other personnel could be trained. The answer was that cataloging is a professional job, according to ALA Standards.

Mayor Greisdorf agreed this is the time to buy land if the Library proposed going into the branch library business.

Questions regarding microfilm and paperback books were raised and Miss Radmacher responded by stating that microfilms are planned for the and will be included in the future. Also, Skokie Public Library has a large collection of paperback books.

Mayor Greisdorf once again questioned what relationship the Village Board had to the Library in respect to setting up the reserve. Mr. Green answered that, according to the law of Illinois, the Library Board, one of the few elected that is not a tax levying body, is elected in response to the people and must prepare the budget. The Library Board shall determine the amount of money needed to operate and the Village levies the library tax.

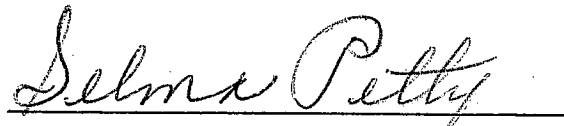
Mayor Greisdorf once again asked if this Library Board had made a definite decision that this money is to be used for a branch library, and, if so, suggested it should be tied in with some other public facility.

Mayor Greisdorf stated a meeting should be arranged with the Village Board, High School Boards, and this Board to get some community pressure to have the high school libraries open after school hours for the students' use.

Mayor Greisdorf repeated that the Village has spent thousands of dollars to set up a planning department and they should be consulted so that all available facilities are utilized.

Mayor Greisdorf agreed to present a resolution requesting approval for establishing a library building reserve fund to the Village Board at its meeting Tuesday, July 2, and concluded their part of the meeting by saying that some time in the fall he would like to set an evening where everyone could just sit down and talk, with the idea of sharing each other's philosophies, etc.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p. m.


Selma Petty, Secretary