

April 8, 1975

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Skokie Public Library held April 8, 1975, at 5:30 p. m.

Members present: Walter Flintrup, Diana Hunter, Shirley Merritt, Richard Telingator, John Wozniak and Rabbi Karl Weiner, Miss Mary Radmacher, Chief Librarian.

Also present: Robert J. Di Leonardi, Counsel for the Board.

Minutes of the meetings for March 12, 1975 were approved on motion by Mrs. Hunter, seconded by Dr. Wozniak. Motion carried.

Mrs. Hunter inquired whether a letter had been sent to Lincolnwood League of Women Voters concerning library service to that community. This Library had committed itself to not be in favor of a district library and Mr. Di Leonardi was to give an opinion on whether it can commit itself to contractual service. Mr. Di Leonardi stated, conditioned upon the opinion of Mr. Jurgensmeyer (NSLS Counsel) Rabbi Weiner and Miss Radmacher can advise the League. That opinion has not been received.

The following motion was made by Dr. Wozniak, seconded by Mr. Flintrup which on roll call vote, carried unanimously.

Motion: That the financial statements for the General Operating Fund, Reserve Fund for the Purchase of Sites and Buildings, and Library Construction Fund be accepted and the lists of bills for the General Operating Fund in the amounts of \$512.73 and \$19,032.19; and the Library Construction Fund in the amount of \$1,644.91 be approved for payment.

On Reciprocal Borrowing with Chicago, Rabbi Weiner questioned whether or not Chicago was in breach of contract by not furnishing figures to determine whether there is an imbalance. He feels the System should notify Chicago that the contract is cancelled if they do not adhere to these arrangements.

Recent changes in personnel were mentioned by Miss Radmacher.

Miss Radmacher called the Board's attention to budget figures which were included in the Board materials. She explained the budget which was adopted a year ago should be changed because of the Library's anticipated contract for the monitoring

system which will create a need for an increase in money. She recommended increasing the line for Maintenance of Buildings and Grounds an additional \$14,500, making a total amount budgeted \$1,058,000. After discussion the following motion was made by Dr. Wozniak, seconded by Mr. Flintrup which, on roll call vote, carried unanimously.

Motion: That an increase of \$14,500 be made in the line item Service to Maintain Buildings and Grounds in the 1975-76 budget.

The proposed 1976-77 budget was discussed. Mr. Di Leonardi mentioned that since Skokie is a home rule village, the Library is no longer subject to any tax rule. Question was asked if it became necessary to cut back the operating expenses where could this be done in the budget. Suggestion was made to scan the expenses now and be ready if such a situation arises. When it was suggested that application might be made for a portion of the revenue sharing funds to offset the increased rate, Rabbi Weiner reminded the Board the intention of revenue sharing was not to meet an ordinary budget but to create something new. It was mentioned that in some municipalities it had been used to replace federally funded programs that were discontinued. Budget hearings are set for Monday, April 21, at 8:00 at the Village Hall. Mr. Flintrup made the following motion which was seconded by Dr. Wozniak and, on roll call vote, carried unanimously.

Motion: That the Skokie Public Library Board accept the recommended budget for 1976-77 as projected in the amount of \$1,173,800.

Rabbi Weiner retired from the meeting and Mrs. Hunter assumed the chair. She asked for a discussion concerning revenue sharing funds which will be part of the budget hearing. Rabbi Weiner had thought about a figure of approximately \$40,000. Points for consideration were: (1) Library is reaching limit of its funds and may have to raise the tax rate; (2) Fine Arts Commission has requested a piano and equipment to tape record programs presented in the Petty Auditorium; (3) need for a wooden floor for the Petty Auditorium for acoustical and aesthetic reasons, and to permit scheduling dance programs; (4) Library which is a very important source of knowledge has no other way to get money but by taxes. Miss Radmacher mentioned service to shut-ins which has

been requested of the Library. Staff librarians do go to Mayer Kaplan Jewish Community Center, Armond King Housing Center, nursing homes, etc. For \$13,280 the Library could employ additional personnel on a part-time basis and provide reimbursement for mileage. Trips could be made to individual homes or nursing homes. Criteria for eligibility must be written to decide who is considered a shut-in. The Board approved of this.

The Board decided to meet an hour or so prior to the budget hearings at which time they could review statistical information which would be distributed to the Village Trustees. Miss Radmacher was asked to get an up-to-date estimate for the wood floor and estimated cost for a tape recorder; also to prepare information on percentage of cost increases such as periodicals and statistics on circulation.

Mr. Di Leonardi reporting on arbitration said in response to the initial offer of settlement that came in National Hamilton's letter of January 30, this Board met and agreed on the terms of a seven-point counter proposal which was sent in Mr. Di Leonardi's letter of February 26. Two weeks later a response from the attorneys for National Hamilton was received. He said the first item is still most serious and falls between what we need and what they are willing to give. How do you determine fault in future breakage? The counter proposal was that the Library, National Hamilton and Libby Owens Ford would agree upon an expert in the field and we would be bound by that third party's opinion. Their response to that counter proposal is the most discouraging portion. National Hamilton is not aware of any independent third party in the glass field qualified to determine fault. Mr. Di Leonardi's advice is to insist a third party be chosen mutually by the parties and suggest several sources with that kind of expertise. The Library should reject their statement that there is no one. Second point, they would agree to indemnify the Library against any third party's claims of property damage. They had agreed to accept that item. Thirdly, the counter proposal suggested a five year length of time and they have countered with three years as they originally suggested. Mr. Di Leonardi said if all other items are settled to the Library's liking, the Board might want to accept the three years. They

have rejected the fourth item that options of National Hamilton and LOF be secured by outside surety bond. We had required that during the term of the agreement replacement would take place immediately and the Library would incur no obligation for immediate replacement and, that both National Hamilton and LOF be parties to the undertakings. That is agreeable to National Hamilton and LOF. Lastly, the glass breakage would be tied in with the complete settlement of all facets of the construction problem but there is increasing problem with the leakage of the roof. Counsel's opinion was the Library would not want to settle in piecemeal, and suggested he be authorized to respond in the manner he suggested. The last light of glass to break was of the new material with the new sealing compound which gives some weight to National Hamilton's statement that it was not the old sealing compound that caused the trouble. One of their defences is they put in just what was specified. It is the opinion of Wiss, Janney, Elstner and Associates it may be some way the glass is made that it is not able to stand stress. Another factor that leads Mr. Di Leonardi to be more concerned on settling on some reasonable basis rather than going all out, there has been a significant deviation from what Wiss, Janney, Elstner and Associates said early in December about a fatigue factor of some sort. Last month they did not really believe there is a built-in fatigue factor that would give rise to future breakage. He feels it is much better to settle prior to arbitration proceedings, especially if the Library can get a three year agreement, some independent qualified third party to look at each break and express a valued opinion by looking at the source of the breakage to determine with a reasonable certainty what it was each time there is a break.

Miss Radmacher mentioned that the roof is still leaking.

Mr. Di Leonardi retired from the meeting.

Mrs. Hunter referred to the following correspondence: (1) a thank you letter from Everett A. Colton, Chairman of the Mental Health Fair Committee, expressing his admiration for the staff of the Library and appreciation for the help given to him; (2) a letter from Village Manager Matzer enclosing copies of Trustee McCabe's note concerning a letter he received from Mr. Daniel Ritter requesting that Mr. Harry

Hippenmeyer, Library Guard, be deputized and given a badge to wear to show evidence of his authority in handling unruly juveniles; (3) a letter from the Skokie Home Owners' Council regarding the locking of the Library doors at 9:00 p. m. when meetings are being held in the Library; (4) a complaint from Ronald Cocome regarding renewal of his Library card now that he is no longer a Skokie resident; and (5) an announcement from the Illinois Bell Telephone Company regarding reduced commissions on public telephones.

Regarding the letter from Mr. Ritter, Miss Radmacher said Mr. Hippenmeyer feels the guard duty is too extensive for one person to cover. Recommendation was made to have a meeting with Chief Chamberlain to discuss the problem.

Mrs. Hunter felt the letter from the Homeowners' Council to be more significant. Miss Radmacher explained the necessity of having someone at the door to identify persons arriving late which is an added expense for the Library. It was suggested the organization could station one of their own persons at the door and this should be suggested to them. Mrs. Hunter suggested they supply the person, pay for this service, and that the Library work it out in the same way as the Park District. Miss Radmacher mentioned that anything done for one group must be done for all. Consensus was to establish a policy that the Library must be notified in advance. Mrs. Hunter thinks it is worth while for community relations to explain to the Homeowners what the problem is, ask them if they can suggest something and suggested having a meeting with Mr. Margolis.

Although Mrs. Hunter elected at this time to curtail a report on the North Suburban Library System, Miss Radmacher said Mrs. Hunter made a beautiful presentation regarding Skokie's application for the Science and Technology CAP. The project was awarded to the Northbrook Public Library by the System and Miss Radmacher appreciated Mrs. Hunter's insistence that the North Suburban Library System records be corrected regarding Skokie's holdings in this subject area. A copy of the letter written by Mrs. Hunter to all NSLS Board members explaining the difference and expressing the facts was given to each Board member.

Miss Radmacher called the Board's attention to the program and reservation blank

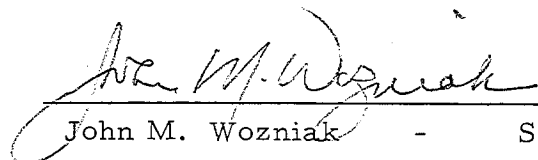
for the LACONI-Annual Trustees-Librarians dinner to be held April 25. Reservation requests should be given to Miss Radmacher.

On the health insurance, four pieces of information were distributed. The upgrading of the Library's policy to be compatible with the Village's was explained whereby the Library absorbed the increase. At one time the Library paid 50 percent of the insurance policies for all its employees. When the family coverage increased the Library decided to pay 50 percent of the cost for the individual plan as its contribution toward both individual and family plans. When the Village went out for bids for the health insurance, Prudential submitted the lowest bid. Their experience record had caused Blue Cross to come in with such a big figure. Prior to the merge into the Village program, the Library's rate was \$81.22 on a family policy and \$31.32 on the single policy, but the coverage was nowhere near as inclusive as the Village. After upgrading, the family plan cost \$94.30 and the single \$34.77. Prudential's figure represents a \$2.00 increase over the cost prior to the upgrading or \$83.45 and includes a much better package. The single policy had been \$31.32 but Prudential's premium is \$21.60. Mr. Flintrup stated that in his opinion it would be better for the Board to pick up a larger portion of the premium for the employees or involve itself in the health insurance to give the employees some additional benefits. A monthly premium of \$1.74 will cover \$3,000 of life insurance. He suggested working a combination of life insurance and increasing the amount of contribution by the Library.

Miss Radmacher called the Board's attention to a brochure which was distributed on the Bicentennial Workshop to be held in Springfield, Illinois April 28-29, 1975.

Board members were asked to be present, if possible, when bids on monitoring and maintenance contract are opened Monday, April 28, 1975 at 10:30 a.m.

Meeting adjourned at 10:50 p.m. on motion by Dr. Wozniak.


John M. Wozniak - Secretary