

August 13, 1969

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Skokie Public Library Board of Directors held August 13, 1969, at 7:30 p.m. in the Conference Room.

Members present: Messrs. Howard Hummer, Donald Kraft, Richard Lindberg, Msds. Harry Hunter and Daniel Petty, Rabbi Karl Weiner and Dr. John Wozniak.

Also present: Mrs. Charlene Lewis, of THE LIFE, the observer for the League of Women Voters, and Mr. James Hammond, architect.

Minutes of the previous regular meeting held July 9 were accepted and approved as mailed.

Attorney Donald Lyons who had applied for the job of legal counsel for the Board, joined the meeting. After excusing the guests, Rabbi Weiner asked Mrs. Diana Hunter to guide the interview. Mr. Kraft asked the first question by asking what specific experience Mr. Lyons had in library law or things the Library Board is concerned with that would be of value. Mr. Lyons replied that he had served as first assistant corporation counsel for the Village from 1961-65, at which time he was dealing with municipal law. In 1959 he was associated with Jim Orphan and at that time formed one of the first districts - a separate library district with its own taxing powers. He worked with this from the beginning - handled the referendum - everything. Since that time has always kept up with the Statutes under the Illinois Library Law.

Mr. Lindberg said that the Library has an upcoming referendum and, hopefully, that referendum will permit the Library to raise its tax power and the passing of \$2,900,000 in bonds to make a bigger and better Library. Would you like to tell the group what you have had in the way of experience? Mr. Lyons repeated that he had ran another election for the Niles Public Library through the existing act, through Chapman and Cutler and had a bonding situation. Mr. Lindberg further asked if he had abt other experience with bonding in general. He replied that during the first tenure could not recall specifically what was the bond program during the time Dr. Wozniak and Mr. Lindberg sat on the Village Board.

Mr. Hummer asked if Mr. Lyons was implicated in politics at all at this time. Mr. Lyons answered that his partner is running for office but he is not interested in any of it and has remained out of the picture. He said that he was at one time first assistant prosecutor but later bowed out.

Mrs. Petty asked, "What does your practice consist of on the Board of the Skokie Trust?" Answer, "The attorney for the bank."

Mr. Kraft asked him, "If you represent us can you give us immediate attention - if we want advice can we call you and get it then and there?" Answer, "Yes, definitely, I am a 'bug' on that. I live two blocks from the Library and have an office two miles from here."

Mrs. Petty said that she was in hopes of the Library Board acquiring an attorney who would probably assist during the referendum inasmuch as boosting it along - probably making talks. Answer, "That is certainly one of the things that can be done or any other thing - it is up to the Board what they want done." Mrs. Petty further said that everyone has some group they can swing. His answer was that in view of the existing tax temperature about the area it is going to be rough, and he did not know whether or not he could be of assistance, but having been born and raised here, any place he would go he knows groups of people. He said that he is still on St. Lambert's School Board, has been Chairman of the March of Dimes, was Skokie's man of the year in 1963, and knows lots of people.

Mrs. Hunter said that the Board is aware that the last library referendum, Mr. Lyons was not in favor of it and asked what caused the change. He answered, "Three things - you have gotten off the branch, the location of the branch and not having it where people thought was necessary. I thought at that time it was a better idea economically not to have a branch but only expand and, with CBD, that the Library be one unit - be a focal point." He was asked if at that time he was strictly for expansion of the main library. He answered in the affirmative, saying that he thought at that time the cost of the land was terrible. Mrs. Hunter asked

if he made the Board aware of his feelings. He answered that he brought the point forward at that time that he thought it was a mistake.

Dr. Wozniak said, "In a way you have been over this ground to some extent but, you know, we had some real static about retaining Mr. Harvey Schwartz and, again in confidence, you feel yourself politically neutral so there would not be a similar amount of static?" Mr. Lyon replied that he has bought tickets to dinners for Warman, Nimrod and the Caucas party, and feels he can pick up the phone to call anybody and get the answers. Mrs. Hunter asked, "Would we get involved again with you as we did with Harvey Schwartz?" Answer, "Feel I could not have done more to get on a good basis with all of these people than I have done. When all of these people call me to buy tickets, make a loan or something else, I think I am in a good situation with all of them. In fact, cannot see where any objection would come from this."

Rabbi Weiner said that the one flaw he could see was that two members of that Board on which Mr. Lyon had served are now on the Library Board. Mr. Lyon answered that, in his opinion, anything is possible and the administration referred to is not in power at this time, but insofar as picking up the banner, he has not done that.

Mr. Kraft asked if compensation of \$100 per month or \$1200 annually would be a suitable retainer, bearing in mind there would be more money for more work; also, what he would consider a fee for the referendum. Mr. Lyon said that again, the Board would find Chapman and Cutler will advise exactly what fee would be suitable for negotiation, but since it was his library, too, \$50.00 a month would be satisfactory.

Mrs. Hunter asked if Mr. Lyon had done any work with HUD. The answer, "No."

Mr. Kraft asked about his availability to attend Board meetings in the next four weeks. The answer was that he is two blocks away - there should be no question about that - he could.

Mr. Lyon retired from the meeting.

Rabbi Weiner continued with the agenda.

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 approved and accepted on motion by Mrs. Petty seconded by Mrs. Kraft. All ayes.

Motion by Mr. Hummer seconded by Mrs. Hunter.

Motion: That the bills payable for the General Operating Budget, in the amount of seven thousand eighty-six dollars and seventy-three cents (\$7,086.73) and for the Reserve Fund for the Purchase of Sites and Buildings in the amount of four hundred dollars (\$400) be paid.

All ayes.

The Librarian asked the Board for direction for the disposition of the bill from Pettibone, and reviewed the circumstances. Mr. Lindberg said that if a letter is sent it should be sent to Mr. William Siegel who has charge of running the elections, but the Board's attorney should be asked to find out for us if we are liable for the bill. Mr. Kraft agreed, as did Rabbi Weiner, to let the attorney find out for the Board. Motion by Mr. Hummer, seconded by Mrs. Hunter.

Motion: That the Skokie Public Library Board of Trustees refer the matter of the bill from Pettibone to the new counsel for investigating.

All ayes.

The Librarian said that another matter for the legal counsel is the contract with the North Suburban Library System. She stated that this contract is unique. It is to be a contract between the Skokie Public Library and the North Suburban Library System for the selection and acquisition of at least \$10,000 worth of books to be housed in the Skokie Public Library and paid for by money from the North Suburban Library System budget. This is in keeping with the System's (C A P) Coordinated Acquisition Program and these small collections would be kept by the individual libraries. They plan to have more of these. American literature is the area in which Skokie Public Library would be selecting and buying materials. They pay \$10,000 in any one six month's period. Mr. Hummer

recommended this contract from NSLS be referred to the Board's attorney.

Mr. Robert Di Leonardi joined the meeting, and Rabbi Weiner asked Mrs. Hunter to lead the questioning. She stated that each member had received a biographical sketch of Mr. Robert Di Leonardi and he had been asked to attend the meeting so the Board could ask questions and meet him.

Mr. Kraft stated that first and foremost requirement is a qualified person and one who has the time to give this Board very prompt service. Mr. Di Leonardi replied that his firm consists of four lawyers engaged in practice of municipal law, and are connected with a firm in Chicago of seven lawyers. He stated that they do give preference to municipal clients and are aware of the necessity of giving urgency to their problems. In client relationship they would only undertake a job with the understanding they would follow through as would the client. Mr. Kraft stated that if the Library goes for a referendum in October there will be much needed in the next three to four weeks and asked whether he could do it. The answer was, "Yes, we would have the time and manpower to get it done."

Mr. Hummer questioned whether Mr. Di Leonardi lived in Skokie. The answer was, "No."

When Mrs. Hunter asked Mr. Di Leonardi to review his status he said that his firm serves as a corporation counsel for Des Plaines and has been since about 1962. His partner has been and continued to be the counsel for Elk Grove Village and prior Village attorney for Mount Prospect. They represent in addition to that, the Village of Hoffman Estates and Rosemont Park District. Have been appointed special assistant general to handle condemnation work for the State, and have drafted some legislation for Schaumburg Township.

Discussion followed of the fee the Library Board had in mind of four hours a month at \$25.00 per hour or \$100 per month, not to include the referendum which would be a more realistic situation. Mr. Di Leonardi said that he did not feel the attorney is entitled to the commission based upon the amount of the referendum.

The amount is a factor that is considered in negotiating the fee, but he did not think there should be an automatic percentage.

Dr. Wozniak also brought up the fact that the next four to six weeks will be extremely acute for the Library. Mr. Di Leonardi said that he had just finished some jobs and for the next four to six weeks would be a very good time for him. He said he could be available and regardless of fee situations, whoever the Board hires should be at the meeting to recognize and diagnose the legal problems. His firm attends all of the municipal meetings. A board member mentioned that would take more than four hours a month.

Rabbi Weiner asked for a brief but thoughtful decision. Mrs. Petty asked that the voting be by ballot. The voting was by secret ballot and the results were reported by the Secretary as: Donald Lyon - 3 votes; Robert Di Leonardi - 4 votes. Mr. Robert Di Leonardi was appointed the legal counsel.

The contract with the North Suburban Library System was discussed and, when Mr. Di Leonardi is advised of his appointment, he will be asked to meet with Miss Radmacher for discussion of the contract.

Mrs. Hunter informed the Board she had read the contractual agreement with the North Shore Junior College for their public relations firm handling the referendum and it states that the firm will receive \$13,000 if the referendum succeeds and one-third of that amount if it fails. Rabbi Weiner stated that he had discussed such an arrangement with the Panas company and their answer was that they would not consider it.

The Village advised the Librarian they are getting bids on Fuel Oil for the coming season and she will appraise the Library Board of the results.

The Librarian distributed copies of the New Trustees Conference Programs and urged new trustees to plan to attend if at all possible.

Miss Radmacher also informed the Board that 1969 Library Legislation was passed which makes it possible for a library to go to \$.40 on \$100 of assessed valuation, by referendum - an increase to \$.40 from \$.20.

Mr. Hummer gave a report on the North Suburban Library System stating that he met with Mr. Paul Gorby and explained the Skokie Public Library's position. That evening he was appointed to the By-laws Committee. In his opinion, the Skokie Public Library is not going anywhere with the System, and will not get the reference service. There is an opening on the Board coming up in sixty days. Mr. Hummer will continue to attend the meetings, but feels it is as a figurehead only. Rabbi Weiner will contact Mr. Gorby. Miss Radmacher stated that in the original by-laws any municipality of a population of 50,000 or over, such as Skokie, Evanston and Des Plaines were given permanent membership on the NSLS Board. However, new by-laws were written excluding this stipulation.

Rabbi Weiner asked Mr. James Hammond to explain developments in the building program. Mr. Hammond said that the Village had been enthusiastic about the little design he had shown at the previous meeting. That plan was based upon trying to get HUD to switch the land grant. After extensive planning with Miss Radmacher and considering all the consequences of two separate buildings, they finally came to the conclusion that the cost for two separate buildings was too great and returned to the plan of expanding the present library right next to it. It was easier and more natural to solve. This will be an expansion or explosion of the present library. The plan will be for a one-story building with a full level below which will have the structural capacity for two more floors on the building and, if it does come to pass that the building needs more space than 90,000 square feet, expansion can be made vertically. There will be an outline of what can be done proportionately to create one unit. The Mayor and Miss Radmacher have been informed that a connection to the Galitz ground with an easement will still be needed. Blue prints were shown of the old building and the new one abutting it. There will be a double driveway with a generous walkway, and the new building would open onto the Village green. Diagrammatic sketch was shown and explained. Mr. Lindberg asked if consideration had been given to putting the

stairwell toward one side of the building with the glass to the outside to get free light. Mr. Hammond stated that this had been considered and was a good suggestion. Another question was whether the mechanical area was going to be in the basement. Mr. Hammond replied that they will try to avoid having any mechanical equipment on the roof. The present building has reached its capacity for mechanical equipment. Electric heat is logical for the new portion, especially since the Library is furnished with free light. He further stated that at the present time the south addition is not being considered but if, at some time, it is thought to be needed - that addition can be finished six months earlier than the expansion to this building. He then distributed drawings and budget with the new figures and stated all of the figures have to be further developed. These figures were cut down from \$3,900,000 to \$2,913,000, all of which are not final, just schematic. A decision must be made as to how far the Board wants to go with the present drawings which may be adequate for the bond issue referendum, but, if more refinement is needed, his firm will do it. Mr. Hammond also said that he had engaged the renderer for August 15 and asked if the Board had considered any kind of a small model. He said one of the things discussed was whether a rendering was a great assist or perhaps should not be used. Mr. Hammond said that the small model can be fixed up for use and asked whether the Board wanted to have more than one rendering - perhaps three or four interiors and one exterior. Exterior renderings should cost between \$400 - \$500 and interiors \$150 - \$250. The opinion was that the Library would need one of each and should also have colored slides.

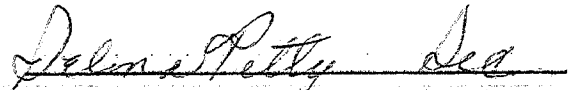
Mr. Hammond asked the Board to give him an opinion on the last plan. Mrs. Hunter thought the new approach was good if light could be gotten down to the lower level and, if so, the plan was excellent. Mr. Hammond explained having wells or courts at the lower level which could be planted to give not only light but the feeling of bringing the outdoors inside. Dr. Wozniak said that he, too, liked the plan



but wanted to know how much, in round terms, the space would be expanded.  
The answer was about three times.

Rabbi Weiner stated that he deemed the expression of the Board was that  
it was satisfied with the new plan.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 p.m. on motion by Mr. Lindberg.

  
Selma Petty - Secretary