

May 14, 1969

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Skokie Public Library held May 14, 1969, in the Conference Room of the Library at 7:30 p.m.

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

Also present: Mrs. Milton Estes, observer for the League of Women Voters and Mr. Harvey Schwartz, attorney.

Rabbi Weiner, President of the Board, presided.

Minutes of the previous meeting, held April 28, were approved on motion by Mrs. Petty seconded by Diana Hunter. All ayes.

Rabbi Weiner reported that following the instructions of the Board, he and Dr. Wozniak had a meeting with attorney Harvey Schwartz to determine if some arrangements could be made for Mr. Schwartz to become the legal counsel for the Library Board. Arrangements favored by the Board were on a case-to-case payment, not a retainer fee basis. Mr. Schwartz' view of an arrangement did not concur and he volunteered to discuss this with the full Board. It was made clear that personalities did not enter into this - only political aspects. Mr. Schwartz stated that if this happened he would withdraw and further offered to answer any questions personally to the Board. Mr. Harvey Schwartz was introduced to the Board.

The question was asked of what acceptable financial arrangements had been mentioned and how it was figured. The answer by Mr. Schwartz was that he arrived at a retainer fee of \$100 per month by estimating four hours per month spent for the Library, and any special services would be treated according to standard arrangements. When questioned whether he had sufficient time to give the Board the service required, Mr. Schwartz answered that although he, too, is busy, he is able to get his work done. Time and effort would be saved because of his familiarity and general information about the community, and knowledge of

both the Library and Village. He further stated that he would have time to attend the Library Board meetings when needed. Mr. Hummer questioned whether there would be a conflict of interest. Mr. Schwartz answered that because he is paid as an attorney for the Village, doing anything else but Village work may cause this conflict, especially because the Library is part of the Village and he would receive a salary from both. However, since the Library is authorized by the State of Illinois Library Act to hire anyone they want, there should be no conflict.

Mr. Schwartz retired from the meeting at 8:00 p. m.

Rabbi Weiner asked for an expression from the Board and Mr. Hummer made the following motion seconded by Mrs. Petty.

Motion: That the Skokie Public Library Board engage Attorney Harvey Schwartz at the proposed agreement on an annual basis of twelve hundred dollars (\$1200) payable in twelve monthly installments of one hundred dollars(\$100) each.

All ayes.

Rabbi Weiner called attention to the Operating Budget. Miss Radmacher explained that she had received Mr. Kahn's approval to use monies in the Reserve Fund temporarily. He also said that it is not obligatory to return the funds to the Reserve Fund. The Librarian further explained the two lists of bills. The list indicating payment on April 30 was paid from the small amount of money left after payroll at the end of the 1968-69 fiscal year. The other list, dated May 14, included the regular monthly bills. Motion by Mr. Kraft seconded by Mrs. Petty.

Motion: That the lists of bills as presented be approved for payment.

All ayes.

Circulation Report for the month of April, 1969 was accepted and ordered to be placed on file.

Annual statements for General Operating Budget, Reserve Fund for the Purchase of Sites and Buildings, Circulation Report, Investment Report for General Operating Fund, Investment Report for Reserve Fund and Report of Expenditures

and Purchases and Maintenance of Properties other than the Skokie Public Library Building, were accepted and ordered to be placed on file.

The Librarian, reporting on personnel, stated it was necessary to fill the void caused by Earle Smith's absence because of illness, and William Grist, who has been a page, is now working as part-time night custodian, effective May 12, 1969.

Mrs. Selma Petty, Secretary, had been asked to scrutinize the by-laws to determine whether changes were necessary since a seventh member had been added to the Board. She reported that no changes were necessary insofar as she could see.

Rabbi Weiner referred to Miss Radmacher for a report on the building program. Miss Radmacher briefly outlined what is planned for the interim expansion to the south, and explained the Library had expected to have money in the Reserve Fund for Sites and Buildings to take care of it, but there is not enough. The possibility of finding a donor of a sizable contribution for whom the building could be named was discussed. Mr. Kraft reported he had not located any foundation that contributed money to erect this type of building. Miss Radmacher stated that the next step is to start planning for the bond issue referendum. She further stated that action has been taken by this Board to try to coordinate and house the fine arts groups under one roof. We have an outline of a building program including fine arts groups' requests which is now about six months old. Rabbi Weiner pointed out the urgency of financing for an interim building and the need for the tax rate increase.

Mrs. Hunter expressed her concern because the Library needs the allowable .20 tax rate and needs it today, and stated her belief that the Library should go for the referendum and increase in tax rate, and not progressing with the plans for an interim building. She felt the citizenry should see the Library's extreme desperation. Discussion of a date for the referendum was held. Motion by Mrs. Hunter, seconded by Mr. Hummer.

Motion: That the Library hold a referendum September 9, 1969 giving it the perogative to go up to a .20 tax rate and funds for building expansion.

All ayes.

Mrs. Petty suggested Rabbi Weiner's going to Springfield to help promote pending library legislation.

Miss Radmacher reported on part-time employee benefits. After considerable discussion Mr. Lindberg moved to table the discussion.

All ayes.

In a discussion of the North Suburban Library System the trustees reviewed guidelines for a contract to establish a special collection in the field of American Literature in the Skokie Public Library which the Librarian recommended accepting so an actual contract could be drawn. Rabbi Weiner expressed interest in accepting the plan but not at the price of disqualifying us as far as giving reference service to the System is concerned. Motion by Mr. Hummer, seconded by Mr. Kraft.

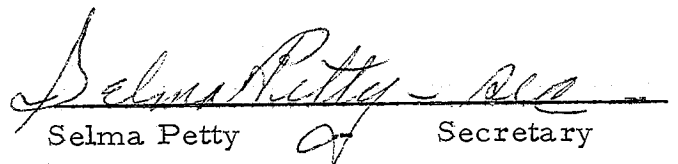
Motion: That this Board contact the North Suburban Library System and accept the proposed Guidelines for the contract on American Literature with the proviso that our position does not change at all on the Reference Service.

All ayes.

Each Board member received a copy of the one-page invitation to newcomers, entitled "Welcome to the Skokie Public Library," to be distributed by the Welcome Wagon in Skokie. The Board approved the publicity and expressed their appreciation to the Librarian for the good job.

New Board members were informed about the ALA Conference to be held in Atlantic City, June 21 through June 28, and invited to attend.

Mr. Hummer moved that the meeting adjourn sine die. Mrs. Petty seconded the motion. All ayes.


Selma Petty Secretary