

February 12, 1969

Minutes of the special executive meeting of the Board of Directors of the Skokie Public Library, held February 12, in the Lecture Room at 5:30 p.m.

Members present: Mrs. W. C. Griffin, Messrs. L. O. Green and Donald Kraft, Mrs. Daniel Petty and Rabbi Karl Weiner, Miss Mary Radmacher, Librarian.

Miss Radmacher explained that a meeting had been called previously for the purpose of adopting a resolution to present to the Village but the meeting was cancelled because Mr. Schwartz and Mr. Kahn thought the lease-purchase idea advanced by Mayor Smith was not the best plan. Their opinion was that this was too small an amount for the lease-purchase plan. They would like the Library to wait until after the 30th of April before letting contracts because the Library had not appropriated the reserve fund for sites and buildings to pay for it. Mr. Kahn and Mr. Schwartz tried to figure out how we could get money from our budget to make up the difference but conceded that we do not have it at this point. Mr. Schwartz brought up the issue of the increased tax rate and Miss Radmacher told him a tax rate increase was defeated at the time of the bond issue referendum in 1965.

The next question was where expenses could be cut, but there is no place this can be done. They suggested a meeting with Mr. Hammond and Miss Radmacher and this was held last week. At that time the question was brought up of having the contractors wait for their money, in other words, prolong payments on the \$175,000 expansion, or wait until far enough into next year's budget before making payment to the contractors.

When Mr. Green suggested mortgaging the property next door, Miss Radmacher stated that the property is already listed for library use.

When informed that the plans are ready and specifications practically prepared, Rabbi Weiner asked whether the Library could go ahead according to the counsel received from Mr. Schwartz and Mr. Kahn. Miss Radmacher said that their advice was to proceed but ask the contractors to wait. Mr. Hammond stated that he had canvassed several contractors (six in all) and all but two said they were too busy

to do the job, but the thought of withholding the money until next year did not appear to deter them, if they are given legal assurance they will get the money. Most of them were very receptive to it.

Mr. Hammond stated that when all this discussion came up with Mr. Schwartz and Mr. Kahn he told Miss Radmacher his firm was preparing the first bill for their services through December 31, 1968. However, they would be pleased to withhold 20 o/o of their bill. He further stated that if the Board wanted to do this now or in the future, to be a part of the overall arrangements, it was acceptable to them.

Miss Radmacher said that in regard to applying to the State for Federal funds, she had talked with Mr. James Beasley, at the Illinois State Library. Mr. Beasley said planning must be made for twenty years to qualify for federal funds, so the allocation of federal funds for our south addition would be eliminated under this condition. His advice was to make this small expansion phase I of an overall program and to submit the request for the whole expansion project. The problem is that we are not ready with phase II. Miss Radmacher said that Mr. Beasley sounded favorable to the whole idea and had no doubt there would be funds available. Rabbi Weiner questioned what stands between us and starting the building? The reply was a number of dollars, the amount of which cannot be definitely stated at this point. Rabbi Weiner then asked how long it will take before we know what we can plan or do. The Librarian replied that specifications could be written and bids can be taken if Mr. Schwartz will tell the architect the legal phrasing for delayed payment to put into the specifications.

Mr. Hammond said that he thought the Library owes Mr. Schwartz and Mr. Kahn an answer as to the contractors' attitudes and then get their decision whether they are going to go along. Rabbi Weiner inquired whether the judgment of Mr. Schwartz and Mr. Kahn could be relied on sufficiently to warrant going ahead. The Librarian reported that Mr. Kahn also brought up the idea of being able to advance money to us by April from next year's budget. Mr. Green suggested waiting until after the election before proceeding. Mr. Hammond said that there might be an

an advantage if the time could be cut and go out for bids within the next two weeks because it might be possible to get a "hungry" contractor, but to wait until after the election would mean a delay of only two weeks or so. Rabbi Weiner said that all that can be done at this time is to wait for Harvey Schwartz and Mr. Kahn to make recommendations.

Mr. Hammond submitted a contract letter summarizing what his firm has done so far. Mrs. Griffin made the following motion seconded by Mr. Green.

Motion: That the Board accept the contract document submitted by Mr. James Hammond.

Motion carried.

Mrs. Petty made the following motion seconded by Mrs. Griffin.

Motion: That the Board pay in full the present invoice covering services through December, 1968 rendered by Hammond and Roesch, Inc.

All ayes. It was decided that if the deferred payment plan is used for the contractors, after January 1, 1969 the architect will be paid in like manner.

Miss Radmacher said that when she and Mr. Hammond met with Mr. Schwartz and Mr. Kahn it was not for discussion of the Fine Arts concept in Library expansion, but the subject came up. Mr. Schwartz said there are no precedents and nothing to deter the Library from proceeding with the plans. Rabbi Weiner said that his concern is with a budget for operating and maintaining the facility. We need some cooperation of Village funds for the operation of the fine arts center activities. Could we enter into an agreement with the Village to receive through their Fine Arts Commission, a budget to pay for the center with the library controlling the budget?

Rabbi Weiner stated that he will take this up with Mayor Smith and request that Mr. Harvey Schwartz be present. The Librarian said that Mr. Kahn very definitely thinks if the money is allocated for the Fine Arts Commission it could be paid to us. She also said that Mr. Schwartz' point was that we are not limited as far as our budget is concerned and we could go ahead.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Selma Petty
Selma Petty - Sec -
Secretary