

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES
OF THE VILLAGE OF CAROL STREAM**

**Carol Stream Public Library
616 Hiawatha Drive
Carol Stream, Illinois 60188**

DATE: May 12, 2004

Time: 7:30 p.m.

PLACE: Conference Room

1. Call to Order

President Douglas called the Special Meeting of the Board of Library Trustees of the Village of Carol Stream to order at 7:30 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

President Douglas led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

2. Roll Call

Secretary George called the Roll:

Present: Trustees Hudspeath, Morrow (who arrived at 7:34 p.m.), Anderson, George, Siegman, and Douglas

Absent: Trustee Ranck

Also Present: Library Director Lynn O'Dell, Assistant Director Ann Kennedy, Financial Consultant Steve Larson of Ehlers and Associates, and reporters from the *Daily Herald* and *Glen Ellyn News*. (Human Resources Administrator Fran Venegas was present for the discussion on agenda Item 3, and Referendum Committee Co-Chairs Sue Evans and Bob McNees were present for the Agenda Item 4)

3. Recommendation, Re: Changes to the Library's Health Insurance Plan

Trustee Siegman moved and Trustee Anderson seconded that the Library offer an EPO Benefit Plan to eligible individual full-time staff members in conjunction with the IPBC – Village of Carol Stream beginning with the open enrollment period in 2004. Motion carried.

Ayes 6 Trustees Hudspeath, Morrow, Anderson, George, Siegman, and Douglas

Nays 0 None

Absent or

Not Voting 1 Trustee Ranck (absent)

Trustee Anderson moved and Trustee Morrow seconded that all new employees (from July 1, 2004 forward) be solely eligible for the HMO plan during their first year. Motion carried.

Ayes 6 Trustees Hudspeath, Morrow, Anderson, George, Siegman, and Douglas
Nays 0 None
Absent or
Not Voting 1 Trustee Ranck (absent)

Trustee Siegman moved and Trustee Morrow seconded that when a covered employee chooses to convert his/her health insurance coverage from HMO to EPO, s/he shall assume the increased cost of the EPO premium on his/her own, and the Library will continue to pay its portion of the HMO premium, effective with the open enrollment period in 2004. Motion carried.

Ayes 6 Trustees Hudspeath, Morrow, Anderson, George, Siegman, and Douglas
Nays 0 None
Absent or
Not Voting 1 Trustee Ranck (absent)

4. Discussion, Re: Proposed Space Expansion Project and Associated Funding Potential

President Douglas presented a handout entitled “Steps After a Failed Referendum” prepared by Steve Larson as a guideline for discussion.

The Board first discussed the voter result of the referendum in terms of turnout, precincts won and lost, and where the referendum effort could be improved. President Douglas offered that passing both referendum questions was not an insurmountable task. It was the consensus of opinion that the referendum loss was due to economic issues and should not be considered a negative indictment of the Library. President Douglas reiterated that the crisis is not going to go away. The Library is losing money due to our being at the top of our tax rate, and we are running out of space. Sue Evans expressed the opinion that homeowners were in shock over real estate bills due to reassessment and the increased tax rate of the schools. Bob McNees said that the economic climate was not good at all – that taxpayers could only afford so much, and that apparently the schools came first. Discussion ensued about the impact of going for another referendum should school districts again be on the ballot.

Steve Larson cautioned against trying to make decisions involving an upcoming referendum at this meeting. He thought that in his experience, the Library “fared very well” compared to other libraries on the ballot. In retrospect, a better job explaining the tax rate increase could have been done.

Discussion then centered on the pros and cons of having a citizen’s survey. Larson cited the need for seeking the true sentiment of the public and that a citizen’s survey would help

the Library really get the answers. The purpose of a survey is to improve the decision making process and help the Library implement a community plan.

Trustee George questioned why the Library needs such a “huge building.” Discussion followed. It was agreed that as part of the planning process, the building plan needs some reassessment. The results of a citizen’s survey would be valuable to see what the community needs and wants in a building and would help the Board in making a reassessment. President Douglas reported on his meeting with the architects to review the building plan and the projected cost increases already incurred because the building project has been delayed.

Trustee Anderson expressed his concern about the lack of citizen involvement in the referendum campaign, specifically the lack of attendance at focus groups. He favors conducting a citizen’s survey as a way of securing that involvement along with helping us analyze what the community wants..

Bob McNees offered that there was a strong group of citizens on the referendum committee but that they were not as strong on the political front. He felt there were other elements involved in the referendum for why people were opposed. McNees thought that having a citizen’s survey was important to answering these questions.

President Douglas asked the Library Director to put together some dates on what is needed to be done when in order to help with the decision making process involving future referendum attempts. The Assistant Director will prepare a request for proposal for securing professional services to conduct a citizen’s survey as soon as possible.

5. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, President Douglas declared the Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Donald C. George, Secretary
Board of Library Trustees

Approved (date)