

**PETER WHITE PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SEPTEMBER 29, 2009**

The special meeting of the Peter White Public Library Board of Trustees was called to order at 5:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Toni Eppensteiner, President
Dianne Patrick, Secretary
Lynn Moon
Dirk Van Osdol
John Weber
Pamela Christensen, Library Director
Claire Rose, Deputy Director
Heather Steltenpohl, Administrative Assistant
Bruce MacDonald, Librarian
John Kivela, City of Marquette Mayor
J. Michael Coyne, City of Marquette Citizen

Absent: None.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Kivela noted that Christensen spoke the Marquette City Commission the previous evening. The City Commission feels that the townships should pay the 1.0 mil or no contract for service as this issue will set a precedent. Kivela said he is disappointed that Marquette Township is creating this issue over a \$10,000 difference. He also reviewed the many other City of Marquette services that are provided to township residents, but subsidized by the City of Marquette such as Lakeview Arena, the Marquette Senior Center and the marina.

Coyne stated he agrees with Kivela and that is why he attended the meeting.

Eppensteiner noted that the City Commission was unanimous in their support of the position of PWPL.

Rose noted that as a taxpayer in Chocoley and Marquette Townships, she is aware of the many benefits township residents receive from the City of Marquette.

Kivela noted that 52% of City of Marquette property is tax-exempt and this is the largest variation in the Midwest. He feels the request from Marquette Townships to the other townships to request a reduction in millage was a slap in the face to the City of Marquette. The initial argument about equity was reasonable, but to encourage the other townships to follow suit seems like a vendetta against the City of Marquette.

Eppensteiner noted that John Markes misrepresented himself as the President of the TAC and let officials believe that the recommendation was coming from the TAC. Marquette Township may have accepted his recommendation believing it came from the TAC.

PRESENTATIONS

Marquette Township Board Meeting Excerpts on Video – Christensen presented video excerpts of the August 18, 2009 and September 1, 2009 meetings of John Markes presenting to Marquette Township Board.

Library Funding & Usage Report – Moon stated that she would like to know who actually wrote the letter sent by Marquette Township Clerk Pat Mayer to the other townships. She is shocked that Mayer would send such a letter as it was not discussed by Marquette Township at those meetings. Christensen noted that she would like to meet with Gregg Seppanen of Chocolay Township to correct the misinformation provided to him by John Markes.

Christensen reviewed the report on Library usage and the cost to the average homeowner for the Library millage at the current levels and with Marquette Township's proposed decrease. She noted that the average homeowner would save \$2.97 per year in Marquette Township if they were at the .85 mil level as requested.

Van Osdol stated that PWPL should not be willing to negotiate lower than 1.0 mil for the contract for service with any township.

Weber stated that the draft of the letter he reviewed by Christensen to be sent to Marquette Township should state that PWPL will terminate the contract for service if they are unwilling to place 1.0 mil as reduced by Headlee on the ballot in 2010. The contract with Marquette Township should be up for renewal at the current rate and, if not on the ballot or turned down at the election, service will be terminated. Eppensteiner wants the letter to communicate that all townships are being treated equally. Christensen noted that the current contract requires 180 day notice of termination. Language is due in May for an August ballot.

After further discussion, Weber moved and Van Osdol supported to set the township renewal rate at 1.0 mil as reduced by the Headlee amendment in exchange for library service. Motion carried.

Weber moved and Van Osdol supported to send a letter to Marquette Township from Eppensteiner stating that PWPL is unwilling to reduce the millage request and will only contract for service at 1.0 mil as reduced by the Headlee amendment. Moon wanted it noted that Board members are appalled at the misinformation being provided to them by Markes and being provided to other townships by the Marquette Township Clerk. Coyne noted that it must be made clear that this action by Marquette Township would be devastating to PWPL and a vote in support of such action is a vote to devastate the PWPL. Motion carried.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

None.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne Patrick
Secretary