

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF IRONWOOD
SPECIAL MEETING
March 10, 2008

AT 3:00 p.m. Supervisor called the special meeting to order with the pledge of allegiance, and roll call was taken.

PRESENT: Supervisor Rick Estola, Clerk Gayla Salmi, Treasurer Jyl Olson.

TRUSTEES: Frank Genisot , John Suutala, and Marilyn Partyka.

ABSENT: Brunello.

ALSO PRESENT: The Ironwood Carnegie Library Board Maryann Andreson, Connie Kirkov, Louanne Korpi, Sylvia Musatti, Bruce Norene, Chairperson Margaret Rayner.

AND : D. Montz, Don Treglon, Carl D. Maki, Gemma Lamb, Dennis Litfin, Sharon Litfin, Annette Burchell, Nancy Sertic, Arlene Schneller, Lou Bongdara, Janelle Edwards.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA: None.

PURPOSE OF MEETING: TO discuss contributions to the Ironwood Carnegie Library.

Library Chairperson, Margaret Rayner presented a brief history of the library, and the Township contributions: as far back as 1987 3/10th of a mill has been in the contract. The City of Ironwood currently is at 9/10th of a mil. In addition the library receives funds from the following sources: Penal fines, State monies, state Aid. The State of Michigan is currently looking at reducing some of the state contributions, recently a \$10000. AT&T grant was received for computer use and education for senior citizens.

The Library has a sharing library with the Superior land Library co-op, and the library for the blind. He library offers many programs, Teen group, Teddy Bear Picnic, the Big Read. Genealogy services, computers, and a lot of kids come in after school.

Supervisor Rick Estola questioned if the 3/10 of amount is a requirement to receive state aid. That this board did not intend to cancel the library contract, we just needed to renegotiate the current contract, and if the 3/10 mil was going to be a large deterrent to funding we would have to take a closer look at it.

Library Board member Bruce Norene noted that budgets are tight everywhere, and the library goes through the same struggles that the Township board does. Bruce Norene also noted that the library is an old building in need of window and door replacement, handicap access.

Ironwood Township Trustee Marilyn Partyka noted that she never recalls an election for the 3/10 mils for the Library. Bruce Norene Noted that the mileage may not be legal with out a vote of the people. That maybe that would be a step to take.

Margaret Rayner asked if 1st year \$15000. 2nd year \$15000. and 3rd year 3/10 of a mil would be acceptable.

Rick Estola mentioned \$15000. per year plus C.O.L.A.

Bruce Norene said \$15000. plus C.O.L.A. would be ok, and still allow the voters to make their opinion known in August.

Library Board member Connie Kirkov asked how the C.O.L.A. would work, would it start at the \$15000. and the C.O.L.A. added to the next year C.O.L.A. be used to calculate

Gayla Salmi, . Clerk Ironwood Township Yes that is how the calculation would be. The base amount used and each increase added to calculate the next year

Connie Kirkov was curious as to how the ballot language would be derived.

Gayla Salmi suggested that providing a petition to get the library issue on the next ballot were done by constituents, a committee from both boards would be the equitable way to develop ballot language. It would then be submitted to the Township attorney, and the County Clerk for review.

Ironwood Library Board member Maryann Andreson, was not in favor of a vote, and was concerned if a vote were to fail, what would happen then. It was noted that a three year contract was in place and if the vote were to fail, then we would still be under contract.

Margaret Rayner then asked what would our proposal be?

Gayla Salmi noted \$15000. plus C.O.L.A. for three years and split the arrears of \$17713.86, ad the township would pay their half in two years.

Margaret asked if that could be a formal proposal in writing, and ratified by the board.

Hearing that Rick Estola, asked for a motion to offer the \$15000. plus C.O.L.A. allowing for a 50/50 split of the arrears of \$17713.86, in which our half would be paid in Two equal payments in two years.

A motion was offered by John Suutala, supported by Frank Genisot. The motion carried on a roll call vote as follows:

AYES: Genisot, Suutla, Estola, Olson, Partyka and Salmi.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Brunello

Margaret Rayner noted that they would go back to their regular meeting on the 17th and discuss the issue, and come to a conclusion.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Don Treglon thanked the both boards for their professionalism in resolving the issue.

Carl D. Maki also thanked the Board for their professionalism in handling the situation. He felt that an equitable proposal was made.

Janell Edwards, was at a previous meeting and was in support of Peggy Krone's comment that the Township should continue to pay at the 3/10th milage.

At 4:40 p.m. hearing no further comments, a motion was offered by John Suutala supported by Marilyn Partyka to adjourn the special meeting. The motion carried.

Rick Estola, Supervisor

Gayla Salmi, Clerk