

PARK FOREST PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES SPECIAL MEETING

February 21, 2022

The special meeting of the Park Forest Public Library Board of Trustees opened at 7:30 pm.

ROLL CALL

Those present were:

Park Forest Public Library Board Members: Sevena Merchant, Linda Marron, Janis Elmore, Alice McBride, and Alan Shnay

Absent: Lance Jefferson and Felicia Rangel

Park Forest Public Library Staff: Barbara Osuch and Mary VanSwol

Also present: Attorney Kathleen Orr

VILLAGE AGREEMENT

President Merchant stated that she would like to have a joint meeting with the Village Board of Trustees regarding the fee charged by the Village. Attorney Orr provided a tax calculator that shows how a reduction of the levy would affect the taxes of a resident. Attorney Orr stated that the calculator is for the median home value. Attorney Orr reviewed the results of the last audit.

Attorney Orr suggested a private meeting with Mayor Vanderbilt, Village Manager Mick, Library Board President Merchant, and Library Director Osuch. She suggested reducing the levy by \$1 million per year for four years.

The Board discussed reducing the levy and the fee from the Village. Trustee Shnay asked how the people of Park Forest will know that the Library has reduced the levy to reduce taxes. Attorney Orr stated that the Library could go to the Southtown Star or the Patch.

The Board discussed next steps. The Board agrees that the levy should be lowered. They would like the Village to lower the fee. The Board discussed who should attend the meeting and how to approach the meeting. The Board would like the Village to agree not to increase their levy if the Library reduces their levy.

President Merchant summed up the discussion that the Library would reduce their levy by \$1 million for four years. The Library would like the Village to agree not to increase their levy and to reduce the fee. Attorney Orr suggested that a meeting could be done on friendly terms over a meal.

The Board decided that Attorney Orr, President Merchant, Library Director Osuch, and Trustee Shnay would meet with representatives from the Village such as Mayor Vanderbilt, Village Manager Mick, and Finance Director Pries. Library Director Osuch would extend the invitation to Village Manager Mick and notify him who is attending from the Library Board. President Merchant stated that she would like to invite them to the Library. President Merchant also stated she would like to bring visuals to the meeting.

Library Director Osuch asked what they would like to happen at the meeting. Attorney Orr suggested that a letter could be sent outlining the Library's plan. A copy of the letter could be sent to the newspapers. The Board discussed the calculation of the fee and the timing of the reduction of income with the reduction of the fee.

The Board planned to go ahead with the meeting with the Village.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:58 pm.