

Pentwater Township Library
Special Board of Trustee Meeting
January 16, 4:00 pm

Call to order: 4:10 pm by Valerie Church-McHugh. Began officialay with quorum at 4:12 pm

In attendance: Amber Jaeb, Joan LundBorg, Valerie Church-McHugh. Kendra Flynn joined at 4:12 pm, Melissa Williams joined at 4:20 pm. Also in attendance was Ann Seuryneck (attourney), Mary Barker, Director, Jenifer Gwillim (via zoom), Justin (library employee), and Tammy (library employee)

Approval of agenda: Motion by LundBorg to approve the agenda as presented with support by Jaeb. Approved.

Questions were provided to Ann Seuryneck prior to the meeting and she spent the duration of the meeting answering the prepared questions as well as questions from the attendees.

Findings and education from answered questions:

- We can continue to levy the current millage for as long as it's valid
- If the school brings in territory that is not in the village/township, and the municipality doesn't want to be brought in – it can be a political issue. You can exclude areas from the school district if they are not in the township.
- A school district cannot be added later if the district is first formed with just the village and township.
- Village or township would want to form a district library for fairness of funding, and autonomy (could be advantage or disadvantage to township depending on how they want to fund). Advantage for libraries to hold our own finances (checks, banking). board members, township has to be elected.
- A school district would want to join in the formation of a district library just to be a good neighbor, share the same goals of literacy, schools can depend on the library for professionals at times. Partner in literacy. School districts get nervous because they have fears of liabilities. Schools do become involved if there is a school member on our board. If the district library is ever amended, the school would have to agree or be a part of the amendment.
- Length of time to become a district library depends on a lot of things. 6 weeks is the quickest Ann has seen. Could be a couple of months if all parties are in agreement. If going for a district wide millage, that could drag out the timeline. If we want it on the ballot in August, need to have it to the county clerk by May. Need the board established 6 weeks before that.
- Deadline for getting information to Ann for creating ballot language is usually two months before election. Ann can usually turn a proposal around in a day or two. Just need to know what rate we are going to levy.

- Headless override plus additional ballot - You continue to levy that millage as long as it's in effect. When you form a district library, the district will go for a millage. It will end up being a new district wide millage that will replace the current one.
 - Timeline for approaching municipalities for formation of a district library: Township first. Make sure to lease the property from the village if we form a district library. Supervisor, village president, then school superintendent or school board.
 - Responsibilities for partnering entities: are in the funding. Library would have exclusive responsibility to our policies.
 - Current millage stance: Would have to have a district wide vote to implement new millage.
 - We are township patrons could have non resident fees, and would have to calculate that. There would be no obligation to honor the previous Weare contract.
 - Years for a new millage rate span depends on what the voter will tolerate. It's a matter of discretion. Ann likes 10 years or more but more of a matter of what local voters will tolerate. District can have up to 2 mils.
 - Hard to tell if this is a good time or bad time to go for a millage increase. It depends on what our voters would prefer. We could wait on when we go for a district depending on how long our funding holds.
 - Ann recommends that we look into more details on what happens to our employees. If no benefits from the township, the employees will just become employees of the district library.
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- We would form a district library with both the village and the township.
 - There would be benefit in including the school with the district.
 - We could always just be geographical boundary of township but could redraw out certain sections to create exactly what is included in the district for funding purposes. - -
 - It is recommended that we talk to neighbor libraries. Do not want to harm your neighbor library by taking some of their territory. The Weare boundary needs to touch the Pentwater boundary to include it.
 - Future board arrangement for a district library can have an elected board (7) and would not depend on their location. If appointed, need to be a registered member of that participating municipality (5-8)
 - If you have an appointed board, the township can appoint one of it's members to the library board without question.
 - Pros and cons of and elected vs appointed board: Elected – hard to get people to run, more independent. Appointed- could be chosen who are not library supporter. Once appointed, they cannot be removed. You have no say in who the municipality would appoint.
 - Money is collected in a district library by people in the local municipalities paying it (taxes), we collect, then have our own audit.
 - Differences in millage types: If the majority passes district wide (What we are determining as our district), it will pass. District libraries can control all of the decisions on millage and timelines.

- Average attorney fees: 3,500-5000 is typical. Recommend lawyer at least in the beginning once there is buy in from municipalities.
- If village became a city, village council members would be appointed to the city board. -
- We do not forfeit our 1 mill in perpetuity if we become a district library.
- For templates and talking points, Ann would ask things in a memo and then would draft it for us.
- The public will need to be educated on the changes within the district library when it comes to the millage. Voters don't get involved until we ask for money. It's more trying to educate the township board members. Ann could help with some talking points.
- Things we need to figure out/handle regarding assets: property (quick claim deed for example), employees (if township employees would need to be leased), handling of the money (until we get on our feet and figure it out),
- If the employees stay township employees it would be simpler. ID numbers can likely be transferred. We would not need a new state ID.

Public comment: to approach our township, village, and school district to see if they are interested (Jennifer)

Adjournment: 5:23 pm

Draft submitted 1/17/24
Amber Jaeb, Secretary