

**Fox River Valley Public Library District
Land Acquisition and Finance Plan Hearing
June 21, 2016**

**Dundee Library Meeting Room
555 Barrington Avenue
East Dundee, IL 60118**

The Public Hearing – Land Acquisition and Finance Plan was called to order by President Skold at 7:02 PM.

Roll Call

Members present:	President	Marge Skold
	Vice Pres	Fred Lechuga
	Treasurer	Brian Lindholm
	Secretary	Richard Corbett
	Trustee	Mark Biewald
	Trustee	Phyllis Creighton
	Trustee	Denise Sommerlot
Members absent:	none	

Others present:	Juan Guerrero
	Karen Guerrero
	Allen Skillicorn
	Nisam Shah
	Catherine A. Rotello
	Jarret Bonfitto
	Rachel Bonfitto
	Suzanne Bertone
	Allisa Witham
	Gloria Casas
	Thomas Zoit
	Julie Fox
	Nicole Steeves
	Jason Pinshower
	Karin Nelson
	Mike Tennis
	Alan Hall
	Roxy Zimmerman
	Bob Harlow
	Sam Adams-Lanham
	Mary Lynne Doherty
	Billita Jacobsen
	Lonnie R. Ritchason
	Raymond Bellock
	Elouise Magnuson
	Cris Cigler
	Tim Bell
	Patrick Dunne
	Brian Wing

Heather Zabski
Ann Marie J. Murray
Wendy Aguilar
Elizabeth Novak
Carolyn Friedlund
Heather Skillicorn
Aaron Carlin
Diane Campbell
Lauren Rosenthal
Karen B. Werle
Roxane Bennett

Public Comment

President Skold reviewed the parameters of the Public Comment:

Members of the public are invited to address the board regarding the proposed Land Acquisition and Finance Plan. Those wishing to speak should sign the Audience Participation sheet at the back of the room before the hearing. The names of speakers will be recorded in the Minutes of the hearing. Speakers are asked to limit their comments to 5 minutes or less. The Board will not enter into two-way conversation with members of the public. Trustees will take public comments under advisement. Trustees wishing to ask clarifying questions will be recognized by the president before speaking.

President Skold called each person to the podium in the order they signed in to address the Board.

Mike Tennis – Sleepy Hollow

Mr. Tennis related ten questions and comments to the Board, as follows:

1. The location of the new library is ideal.
2. The proposed acreage for the new library is excessive.
3. Total land site costs are unaffordable to taxpayers.
4. Why is the real estate contract silent on tax referendum approval as a contingency?
5. Is the library district only obliged to forego the \$50,000 in earnest money after September 20 if the referendum fails or could the seller bind the district to purchase the property?
6. Has the district engaged an environmental firm assessing the land before September 20?
7. By September 20, will there be a soil boring test to validate the ground can support the weight of the library?
8. What are the annual recapture costs and impact fees for the stoplight and road improvements at the Randall Road and Recreation Drive intersection?
9. How much does the district expect to incur in annexation, entitlement, and subdivision costs?
10. Why not consider the following: acquire a smaller portion of the 47-acre site, or have the seller amend the contract to secure a price concession? Third suggestion, pursue an alternative improved property or an existing property.

Bob Kaplow – Dundee Township

Mr. Kaplow related he has been a strong supporter of the library. He also visits other libraries in the area. Mr. Kaplow remarked the proposed plan is the wrong time, the wrong solution, and the wrong price. The library literature sent out is asking taxpayers to triple their tax rate. Mr. Kaplow said he would love to see a new library, but cannot afford it.

Sam Adams-Lanham – West Dundee

Ms. Adams-Lanham is part of the Citizens Task Force and has a MS in Information Sciences and works at a library. She supports the Board in making these purchases. In her time living in West Dundee, the library has not asked or received for an increase in funding. With taxes from library she could afford to purchase six books. She is very aware of how underserved the area is. She remarked the amount of land may be excess, but land will never cost less than it does at this time so she supports the decision.

Mary Lynne Doherty – East Dundee

Ms. Doherty is from a long line of librarians; she is here to support the decision. She thinks the location of the new library is excellent. She supports the renovations at the Dundee library and construction of the new library. She thinks the new library would help the community through providing important services and raising property values.

Billita Jacobsen – Carpentersville

Ms. Jacobsen supports libraries and thinks they're great, however, she supports them at the current tax rate. The plan is simply not affordable. She asked why the library can't use the reserves to fix this library? She hopes the Board goes to the taxpayers and asks them but she cannot support this plan.

Lonnie Ritchason – Gilberts

Mr. Ritchason is retired. He recognizes that at times the Randall Oaks library is a little crowded. With the advances of technology, such as ebooks, the utility of library is less and he believes it will only decrease, not increase. He sees a lot of people with DVDs, not books. He related that people cannot afford the tax increase, especially with what is happening with the state. He remarked we're already ranked number two in tax rates. He related that most people have computers at home so it's not necessary to have computers at a library.

Ray Bellock – Sleepy Hollow

Mr. Bellock sent a copy of his comments to each member of the Board. He says he has the impression that concept of the second library and renovation is a done deal. He is very opposed to the library on Randall Road. He is in favor of a new centralized location, and closing the Dundee library if necessary. He remarked that the surveying of the library has been duplicitous in the presentation of the literature. He remarked that if tax rate is approved, we will have the highest tax rate in Kane County. He said if the Board is truly information-seeking, they should explore more options. He recommended the Board is more realistic moving forward.

Patrick Dunne – Carpentersville

Mr. Dunne related two comments. The land purchase is bespeaking arrogance without asking the public. The library reported the need more space for patrons, however, the new library has approximately 20-25% of space reserved for office space.

Allen Skillicorn – East Dundee

Mr. Skillicorn told the Board he and his wife are patrons of this library and area libraries. He has not seen the library that busy, only when he is checking out DVDs, so the library is competing with Netflix and Redbox. If the library expands, his family will not check out more books. He said the land purchase is akin to the cart leading the horse, the idea of approving the land purchase is premature especially without passing the referendum.

Diane Campbell – Carpentersville

Ms. Campbell is a strong proponent of the library, despite being a state of Illinois employee who's department budget has been cut. The building expansion is overdue and will only become more

expensive. She also supports the creation of a new building. She enjoys actual books and thinks the library offers more service. She also mentioned Tax Increment Financing Districts (TIFs), which freeze taxes in place. She doesn't think the literature was duplicitous.

Catherine A. Rotello – East Dundee

Ms. Rotello is an unemployed teacher. She said the cost of new library during this economic time is not possible. Ms. Rotello remarked that Illinois is a train that is derailing. She is worried about her taxes and Dundee is already a beautiful library. She has many books and DVDs already in her home to enjoy. She can see some enhancements being done to the existing building, however, not the proposed \$41 million project.

Julie Fox – West Dundee

Ms. Fox was on the Fox River Valley Public Library District Board from 2001-2005, she served on the budget committee all four years. The need for a west-side library was apparent in 2001-2005 but the Board decided against it because it was not in the budget. She was very proud to be on a fiscally responsible board. She related that the district does have a facility on the West side, though it is not ideal. She remarked we're taxing our residents and our businesses out of this state. While she was on the Board, they set up a reserve specifically for a new or expanded building with the idea that it may not pay for the entire facility but it would lessen the amount for taxpayers, that money was spent making necessary repairs on existing Dundee building. She ended with it is not reasonable in the economic environment, there is overwhelming opposition and if people are opposed, the Board needs to come up with a new plan.

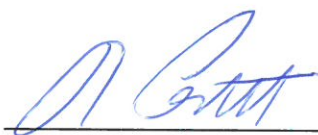
Tim Bell – Carpentersville

Mr. Bell has four children that use the West side library. He works for a company in the area that recently negotiated two leases in the district and just fought for reduced taxes. He said anymore increases to taxes will be too much. He also does not support the building of a new high school. He remarked that he can move his business from Elgin to Indiana and save 1.5 million dollars. He recommended the Board look at this proposal from a business perspective; it does not make sense right now.

President Skold thanked everyone for sharing their opinions. She remarked that there is a citizen's committee, surveys, and the board will continue to receive information if they would like to send via email. The Board wants to make best possible decision.

Mr. Lonnie Ritchason requested the breakdown of total number of materials checked out from the library. He also asked about preliminary survey results. President Skold explained the surveys are handled by impartial experts, no one on staff or on the board have seen individual surveys. When the consultants put it together they will be presented to the board.

President Skold asked for a motion to adjourn the Public Hearing. It was moved by Trustee Sommerlot and seconded by Treasurer Lindholm. The Public Hearing was adjourned by President Skold at 7:51pm.



Richard V. Corbett - Secretary