

DEWITT DISTRICT LIBRARY (DDL) BOARD

13101 Schavey Road, DeWitt, MI 48820

June 15, 2017 Special Meeting Minutes

A. The meeting was called to order by President Byars at 5:03 p.m.

Member Present: Brian Byars, Paul Perpich, Lysne Tait, Matt Boeve, Wayne Summers and Bill Fullmer

Also Present: Jennifer Balcom, Library Director and Diane Mosier, Township Clerk

Members Absent: None

B. Approval of Agenda:

Summers moved to approve the agenda as presented which consists of a few questions to focus discussion. Perpich second. Motion approved unanimous.

C. Meeting Purpose. The purpose of the DDL Board meeting in a special session was to discuss the June 8, 2017 notice submitted to the DDL by the Bath Township special library committee. The discussion focused on the likelihood that Bath Township would submit a formal request to become part of the DDL by November of 2017.

Issues that emerged as a result of board discussions:

1. The DDL Board operates on the basis that assisting communities to develop and have a good library system for their residents is something we believe in and value. As such, our premise is that we would like to assist Bath Township in having a quality library for their Township residents.
2. It is clear that there is a nucleus of people in Bath who desire to have a functional library. The size of this nucleus is not at all clear to the DDL Board, and the only way to know for sure is to have a millage vote in the township.
3. The Bath notice indicates they want a library approved by November, 2017. Based on the DDL experiences in organizing a millage, the November, 2017 target is not very realistic.
4. What is Bath offering as part of becoming a member of the DDL? It appears they offer the Bath library millage dollars, should that pass, and Penal Fine dollars, but nothing more at this time. If so, that suggests they expect the DDL to supply a building as well as services and supplies on an annual basis. Is that feasible under the current circumstances? That would need to be determined before committing to such an arrangement. For the record, when the current DDL location was purchased the three pertinent bodies each

committed 1/3 of the cost of the building (City of DeWitt, DeWitt Township, and the DDL). The DDL is the owner of said building. Also for the record, District Libraries are taxing authorities in the State of Michigan.

5. A suggestion was offered that would seem to have merit. Bath Township can arrange for a millage vote of the residents in support of a Bath library. If that passes, the Township knows there is support for doing so, and can get assistance in developing a library operation that is supported by their millage dollars. DeWitt can offer some planning assistance and the Township would need to purchase some as well. If Bath is successful in such a venture over time, and if it was beneficial to the parties in the future, Bath could consider approaching the DDL to become part of the DDL. Or, any other District Library for that matter.
6. No action was required/taken by the DDL at this meeting. The Library Board felt it was essential that the other municipalities in the library district be notified regarding Bath's desire to join the district and be given an opportunity to respond and ask questions. Immediately following the special meeting, the Library Director will submit as correspondence Bath's letter of interest to the City of DeWitt, Dewitt Township, and Watertown Township. This will provide local leaders and trustees the opportunity to review the correspondence and to respond. Formal Action will be required if and when the Bath Township trustees pass a resolution and submit as an official request to become part of the DeWitt District Library. In the interim, the Director will contact Dan Wietcha at Bath Township and update him regarding the board's discussion on the 15th.

D. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 6:25 PM, having completed the discussion.

Respectfully submitted by Bill Fullmer, Secretary