

Finance and Properties Committee
September 13, 1990 4:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Chairman Dan Gaumer. Members attending: Mr. Gaumer, Bob Smith, Dick Lockmiller, Jerrodean Martin, and Barbara Ohlsen, ex-officio. Staff attending: Jim Seidl, Carol Gibson, and Linda Humphreys. Others present: Ron Ingram, Decatur Herald & Review.

Mr. Gaumer stated that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss a presentation to be made to the City Council on Monday, September 24, regarding the library's levy request for the 1991/92 budget.

Many statistics and charts were reviewed, including the following:

1. Over the past ten years, circulation has increased 38% while staffing has increased only 14%.
2. Over the past ten years, the library's cost per circulation has increased 34%, while the Consumer Price Index has increased 44%.
3. Decatur has the lowest total assessed valuation among Illinois cities with populations 75,000-250,000.
4. Circulations per FTE is a standard measure of efficiency for libraries. The rate for Decatur Public Library for this measure was exceeded by only one other library of comparable size (Schaumburg).

Mr. Seidl reported that it will cost about \$100,000 more than last year's budget to cover increases that the library has no control over (insurance rates, utilities, etc.) and provide a cost of living pay increase. An additional \$50,000 is needed in order to cover declining sources of revenue and maintain the recommended \$175,000 carry-over balance. The per capita grant will be \$10,000 less each year for the next 10 years because of new census figures which reduce the population to 84,000. Mr. Lockmiller noted that state officials are estimating that the replacement tax will bring in 6.5% less than last year.

Mr. Smith said that the library should not request a tax levy increase. He recommended working smarter and/or cutting services.

The Board's written report to the City Council must be given to the city by noon Thursday, September 20. That will not allow the full Board a chance to act on the Finance Committee's recommendation. Therefore, Mr. Seidl was asked to prepare a proposal for the City Council, fax it to Finance Committee members on Monday, September 17, and send it to the rest of the full Board on Tuesday, September 18. Board members can contact Mr. Seidl with their comments before the proposal is sent to the City on Thursday, September 20. The proposal is to show what it will cost to keep all services at the same level, provide a cost of living pay increase, increase the materials budget by \$10,000, and maintain the \$175,000 carry-over budget balance recommended by the city. Mr. Gaumer noted that any Board members are welcome to accompany him and Mr. Seidl to the City Council study session on Monday, September 24.

There was no other business. The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



James C. Seidl, City Librarian