

DECATUR PUBLIC LIBRARY

Decatur Illinois

Minutes of Finance and Properties Committee Meeting - April 9, 1986

The Finance and Properties Committee met Wednesday, April 9, 1986 at 7:15 P.M. Present were Edith Rossiter, John Mueller and Sharon Alpi. Also present were Marshall Susler, ex officio, and James Seidl, Assistant City Librarian.

Mr. Seidl informed the committee that a recent inspection of the exterior library walls revealed the need for tuckpointing and waterproofing of the east wall, replacement of brick near the northwest corner, and banding of the chimney. Mr. Richardson, library maintenance man, checked with several firms for estimates. Bids included Christy Foltz Inc: \$2,495., Leon Chapin Masonry: \$5,800., A+ Home Repairs: \$6,550. and one bid (which hasn't arrived) from a Springfield company which was recommended by the City of Decatur.

Funds totaling \$5,400. are left in the service to maintain building and improvements accounts.

Mr. Mueller recommended that an architect inspect the walls and advise the Library Board about necessary repairs. Mrs. Alpi said her husband would volunteer. There being general agreement that the repairs are needed, the committee recommended that repairs should be made after Mr. Alpi's inspection.

The committee then discussed bids received in response to the library's RFP for a telephone system for the main library. Bids were received from two vendors: Galt Communications in Monticello for \$5,514.93 and Schuerman Radio, Inc. for \$11,158.25 or \$11,874.86 with a DSS/BLF. Both bidders followed the RFP and listed specifications and any variances. Mr. Seidl researched both companies by talking with references supplied by each bidder and checking library reference sources.

Neither of the references called, which were listed by the low bidder, had the system proposed for DPL. Galt is a new company (2 years old) and the phone system is not listed in any of the standard reference sources.

Schuerman Radio, Inc. has been in the telephone business for 12 years. They have numerous installations in Decatur and Central Illinois. NEC is an \$800 million company in the U.S. and an \$8 billion company worldwide.

Mrs. Rossiter suggested that because of the great price difference,

the committee should consider hiring a telephone consultant to evaluate the library's requirements. After some discussion, Mr. Susler suggested that each phone company representative should write a proposal for the library.

Discussion then centered on the library's phone requirements. Mr. Seidl stated that the library pays over \$430 per month for the present AT&T system. The system is 25 to 30 years old and all transfers must go through the central operator. Numerous calls are lost daily when transferring.

Mr. Mueller recommended that the committee purchase the Schuerman Radio, Inc. system in order to avoid further delay and cost. Questions concerning cost of the service contract and training of staff to operate the new equipment will be determined and presented to the Board at the April meeting. Committee members agreed to recommend this system to the Board.

James Seidl