

DECATUR PUBLIC LIBRARY
Decatur, Illinois

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
Special for Consideration of Budget
June 11, 1959

Members present: Mr. Madden, presiding; Mr. Felts, Mrs. Moothart, Mr. Burnett, Mr. Schroeder, and Mrs. Howe. Also present were: Mr. Colin Lucas, and Mr. deLafayette Reid, Assistant State Librarian, Mr. Puhk from the newspaper, Mr. Bushee and Mrs. Appelt.

Mr. Madden called the meeting to order at 4:15 PM. He showed the letter received from the Mayor and then released it for publication.

Mr. Madden said it is his understanding that the City Council has pretty much made up its mind as to how much money they will appropriate (\$280,570) and we are to make up a budget accordingly. He said further statistics that Mrs. Howe will present will either clear up some of the questions that are brought up in the letter or maybe errors or anything misleading. The corrections should be made as soon as possible.

Mrs. Howe explained the revised comparative statistics by using charts.

Mr. Reid was asked to comment on the staff salaries. He said the present increase in salaries offered to beginning librarians coming out of school has raised salaries generally. He pointed out that the oversight of libraries in the Hodge Bills had been discovered and the Legislature later refused to pass a bill introduced to include libraries. He also stated that the laws on library budget responsibility was interpreted by Peoria's corporation counsel to rest solely on the Library Board.

The Board felt that if a budget trimming of 10% was to be affected in all City departments, it would go along with it.

Mr. Felts moved that the President of the Library Board write a letter to the Mayor and the City Council saying that the Council does have the right to say how much money it will levy for us but ask that before final budget is approved they take into consideration this item of elimination of the New Branch Services of \$9,000 and also the \$12,000 spent but not budgeted. Motion was seconded by Mr. Schroeder. After discussion all voted aye. Motion carried. The statistics and the Inter-Comm should be sent to the Council.

It was agreed that after the Mayor's reply, the Finance Committee will then resubmit a budget, not detailed, but with only the total figure.

Mr. Madden said " we should, as Trustees, work toward endowments or special gifts. He felt that the Mayor's letter is indicative of the City Council's attitude toward the library, but there is one facet of the salary item that should be presented. The City Council must not allow themselves to try to relate salaries of people with college degrees and advanced degrees with the people who work, say, on the Street Department.

Mr. Schroeder moved the meeting adjourn at 5:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary T. Howe
Secretary