



BALDWIN PUBLIC LIBRARY
MINUTES, SPECIAL MEETING
June 8, 2011

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by President Michael Earl at 5:31 p.m.

Library Board present: Sheila Brice, Ann Conigliaro, Michael Earl, Frank Pisano, David Underdown, Andrew Harris (arrived at 5:34 p.m.)

Library Staff present: Doug Koschik, Library Director; Matt Church, Associate Director; Josh Rouan

2. Bloomfield Hills Subcommittee Report:

Conigliaro reported that the Joint Bloomfield Hills Subcommittee met on June 7. Prior to that meeting, there had been two offers from Baldwin and two counter offers from Bloomfield Hills. Bloomfield Hills' most recent counter offer was based on the equivalent of .3 mills in Bloomfield Hills, or \$222,781.

At a meeting on June 7, 2011, with negotiators from both sides present, Baldwin proposed a contract amount of \$268,681, which is based on a blended rate of the average per-household cost for library service in Birmingham, Beverly Hills, and Bingham Farms. That average per-household cost is \$180.44. The contract amount of \$268,681 would be adjusted upward either by 5% or the rate of inflation, whichever is less, for the second and all subsequent years of the contract. The representatives from Bloomfield Hills agreed to present the agreed upon amount to the full Bloomfield Hills City Commission. Koschik noted that the Bloomfield Hills City Commission would place this issue on the November ballot. Conigliaro added that the intent in presenting the proposed contract amount to the Bloomfield Hills City Commission is to have full support of the commissioners before the issue went to voters. Brice and Earl thanked the Subcommittee, as well as Koschik and Church, for their work on the negotiations.

Underdown stated that Bloomfield Hills and Baldwin will need to work to make facts about the proposed contract known to residents. Conigliaro noted that the final amount agreed upon approximately split the difference between the previous offers from both Baldwin and Bloomfield Hills. Pisano expressed concern about Birmingham taxpayers and their attitudes towards the difference in the amount between what Birmingham residents pay for library service versus what Bloomfield Hills might pay. Conigliaro noted that Birmingham residents have representation on the Library Board whereas residents of contract communities do not. Earl noted that the service area would increase by 13%, and that a contract with Bloomfield Hills would also allow Baldwin to reverse its reduction in the hours it is open. Brice opined that the Library has been transparent throughout the negotiating process. Harris stated that any advocacy of a Bloomfield Hills initiative in November would not be done by staff. Staff would be limited to providing objective information to the public.

Member of the public Jim Suhay, a Birmingham resident, expressed support of the proposal. He stated that the proposal is grounded in a consideration of the three communities that financially support Baldwin. He also said that a contract with Bloomfield Hills would allow Baldwin to add programs and

materials, and return to 67 operating hours per week. He noted that the contract amount would more than cover the incremental cost of serving Bloomfield Hills, and that this was therefore a good business decision.

Member of the public Bob Tera, a Birmingham resident, expressed concern about the potential of legal action stemming from Bloomfield Hills possibly trying to use a contract with Baldwin to check out items from the Bloomfield Township Public Library, and was pleased to see a provision in the proposed contract that clearly states that the contract guarantees access only to Baldwin. He expressed support for a contract with Bloomfield Hills.

Motion to offer the City of Bloomfield Hills a three-year contract for library services at the rate of \$268,681 for the first year, to be increased each subsequent year by the inflation rate or 5%, whichever is less, with further details to be worked out by the negotiating subcommittees of Baldwin Public Library and the City of Bloomfield Hills.

1st Conigliaro

2nd Underdown

Yeas: Brice, Conigliaro, Earl, Harris, Pisano, Underdown

Nays: None.

Absent and excused: None.

The motion was approved unanimously.

3. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

1st Pisano

2nd Underdown

Yeas: Brice, Conigliaro, Earl, Harris, Pisano, Underdown

Nays: None.

Absent and excused: None.

The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 5:49 p.m.