

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES OF THE  
COOK MEMORIAL PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT

August 26, 2020

**Call to order:** The special meeting of the Cook Memorial Public Library District was held virtually via Zoom on Wednesday, August 26, 2020 in accordance with the Governor’s Executive Order No. 5 dated March 16, 2020. The meeting was called to order by President Wendy Vieth at 6:30 p.m. Trustees in attendance in addition to Ms. Vieth were Jim Larson, Phyllis Dobbs, Karen Singer, Jen Banek, and Laura Valenziano. Ann Oakley was absent.

Staff members in attendance were Library Director David Archer, Business Manager Russ Cerqua, and Administrative Assistant Gabriella Pantle. Members of the community also attended.

**Public Comment:** None.

**Authorization for Library Representative on Hawthorn Mall Joint Review Board to Vote to Recommend or Deny Approval of Proposed TIF District:** In advance of a Joint Review Board (JRB) meeting for the proposed Hawthorn Mall TIF District, Trustees discussed whether the Library Board should support the project. The Library is one of ten members on the JRB who serve in an advisory capacity and will vote to either recommend or not recommend the redevelopment plan. Under TIF, the current equalized assessed valuation (EAV) of taxable real estate within the designated TIF District is “frozen” for up to 23 years at the level the date the TIF District was created. Subsequent growth in property tax revenues that occurs in the TIF District, above the base EAV, is put into a separate fund maintained by the municipality to pay for infrastructure and redevelopment costs within the TIF District.

Ms. Oakley joined the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

President Vieth noted the very good relationship that the library has with the Village of Vernon Hills stating that the Library wouldn’t be where it is today without their support during the construction of the Aspen Drive Library and the donation of the land. Other trustees expressed concern over the lack of detail in the redevelopment plan while others were concerned over the loss of tax revenue to local taxing bodies. Some trustees saw the project as needed economic development. Mr. Larson then made a motion, seconded by Ms. Oakley to approve the proposed TIF District. Roll call was as follows: Ayes; Ms. Vieth, Ms. Oakley, and Mr. Larson. Nays; Ms. Banek and Ms. Dobbs. Ms. Valenziano and Ms. Singer abstained. Failing to reach a majority of votes cast, the motion fails.

**Adjournment:** Ms. Banek made a motion, seconded by Mr. Larson to adjourn the meeting. Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:04 p.m. Roll call was as follows: Ayes; Ms. Vieth, Ms. Oakley, Mr. Larson, Ms. Dobbs, Ms. Singer, Ms. Banek, and Ms. Valenziano. Nays; none. Motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,

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Jen Banek, Secretary

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Wendy Vieth, President