

Carthage Public Library District
Special Board & Public Informational Meeting
Thursday, February 25, 2021, 4:00 p.m.
Fortress Bank, 433 Main Street, Carthage, IL & via Zoom

Attending in person were Board members Donna Tracy, Sherry Wright, J.R. Parn, Angie Perry, Andy Bastert, John Dittmer (joined meeting at 4:33 p.m.) and Director Amy Gee. Trustee Rebecca Eagan was absent.

Members of the public attending in person were Mayor Jim Nightingale, Howard Perry, and Doris Holtsclaw. Joy Swearingen attended via Zoom.

The meeting began at 4:10 p.m.

Director Gee and the Board members gave a PowerPoint presentation about the Library's proposed building project and funding, including the Public Library Construction Act Grant, the need for a new building, fundraising efforts, and the bond proposal which will be on the April 6 ballot.

Following the presentation, members of the public had an opportunity to make comments and ask questions. Discussion centered around how to deal with the public perception that libraries are obsolete and about the tax implications of the bond issue for land owners. Trustee Bastert noted that an audit of current sidewalks to the proposed site is needed; Mayor Nightingale said that a previous Safe Schools Grant that funded sidewalks was allowed to lapse. Trustee Perry noted the importance of seeking private funding sources and that, should the bond issue not pass, there will still be 3 months of fundraising to reach the local cost share.

The Zoom meeting concluded at 4:35 p.m.

The Board and in-person community members continued to discuss the importance of and methods for communicating the continuing viability of libraries and the variety and extent of the services provided. Both publishing in the Journal Pilot and inserting the PowerPoint slide showing library usage statistics into grocery bags were encouraged.

Discussion concluded at 4:55 p.m.

Donna Tracy, Board Secretary