

TIMBERLAND REGIONAL LIBRARY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
Oakville Timberland Library, City Hall, Oakville, WA 98568

May 21, 1981

I N D E X

<u>AGENDA ITEM NO.</u>		<u>Page No.</u>
1	Approval of Minutes	
	A. April 7, 1981 Special Meeting	1
	B. April 16, 1981 Regular Meeting	2
2	Approval of Vouchers	2
3	Reports	
	A. Business Manager - Michael Crose	2
	B. Baker Dinner, Packwood - Elmer Keiski	2
	C. Library Director - Louise E. Morrison	3
4	Correspondence	3
5	Unfinished Business	
	A. Selection of Timberland Attorney	3
	B. Authorization to Proceed with Packwood Building	4
	C. Supply System	5
6	New Business	
	A. Ratification of Board member poll by telephone of Packwood Building roofing contract with Schweisow Construction	5
	B. Ratification of altered property line for the Combs property at Packwood	6
7	Other Agenda Items	
	A. Certificate of Appreciation - Kay Gifford, Yelm Board	6
	B. Concerns of Oakville Timberland Board - Lola Rudrud	6

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M I N U T E S

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Alice Harris, Chair - Mason County  
Shirleen Johnson - Member-at-Large  
Elmer F. Keiski - Thurston County  
Donald L. Law - Member-at-Large  
Larry Parsons - Lewis County  
Paul Polillo - Pacific County  
Dorothy Voege - Grays Harbor County

STAFF PRESENT:

Louise E. Morrison, Library Director  
Virginia Barton, Associate Director for Research & Planning  
Mary Stough, Assistant Director for Public Services  
Tom Mayer, Supervisor-Personnel Administration  
Michael Crose, Business Manager  
Kit Machin, Oakville Librarian  
Marj Thompson, Oakville Substitute  
Liane Bascou, Board Recording Secretary

GUESTS PRESENT:

Frances Bergt, Oakville Board  
Anna Bower, Oakville Board  
Irene Francis, Oakville School Librarian  
Barbara Henry  
Grace Meile, Oakville City Council  
Betty Mitchell, Oakville Board  
Carl Mittge  
Stella Mittge, Oakville Friends  
Edna Moe, Oakville Friends  
Alice Ray  
Lola Rudrud, Oakville Board Chair

Mrs. Harris called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Introductions were made. Mrs. Harris expressed the Board and staff's appreciation to the Oakville Board and Friends for the invitation to meet at the Oakville Library and for the dinner served prior to the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM

NO.

- 1 Approval of Minutes
- A. April 7, 1981 Special Meeting

81-28

DOROTHY VOEGE MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 7, 1981 SPECIAL MEETING; SHIRLEEN JOHNSON SECONDED THE MOTION.

- 1A Mr. Parsons asked if the amount paid to Pacific Northwest Bibliographic Center in the amount of approximately \$2,000, which was in last month's vouchers, is for the whole year and Mrs. Morrison replied that that is correct.

MOTION CARRIED.

B. April 16, 1981 Regular Meeting

- 81-29 LARRY PARSONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 16, 1981 REGULAR MEETING; PAUL POLILLO SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED.

2 Approval of Vouchers

Mrs. Harris stated that payroll vouchers for the month of April totaled \$215,569.71.

- 81-30 DOROTHY VOEGE MOVED TO APPROVE VOUCHERS #8480 THROUGH #8690 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$98,839.45; PAUL POLILLO SECONDED THE MOTION.

Mrs. Johnson questioned voucher #8498 in the amount of \$300.00 to Central Electric. Mrs. Morrison stated that this is for the survey of the current electrical system at the Packwood Library. Mr. Law questioned voucher #8531 to Isdell-Plemmons in the amount of \$4,962.00. Mr. Crose stated that this is for the trustees and public officers liability insurance for the year. Mr. Law asked if Isdell-Plemmons is Timberland's insurance broker for all the insurance Timberland carries, and Mr. Crose replied that that is correct. Mrs. Johnson questioned voucher #8555 to Olson-Rowe in the amount of \$1,500.00 and asked if this covers the majority of the architectural fees for the Packwood building. Mrs. Morrison replied that there is a balance owing of \$350.00.

MOTION CARRIED.

3 Reports

A. Business Manager - Michael Crose

Mr. Crose referred Board members to his written report. He said that Timberland is starting to see some property tax revenue coming in.

B. Baker Dinner, Packwood - Elmer Keiski

Mr. Keiski reported that the community of Packwood had a party for Bob Baker honoring him in his retirement from his store in Packwood and in his service to the community, which included the library district. Mr. Keiski said that Mrs. Morrison, Mrs. Barton and her husband, Mrs. Stough, Maryan Reynolds and himself were present. He stated that Mrs. Barton read from the scroll which Timberland Board and staff had presented to Mr. Baker when his term expired on the library Board, and Mr. Keiski presented an award to Mr. Baker from the Washington Library Trustee Association. Mr. Keiski said that there were a number of people in the community who have known

3B Mr. Baker for years who made statements in his behalf. Mr. Keiski said that they also had an opportunity while there to see the facility which is being remodeled for the Packwood Library. He explained that the log structure and park-like grounds were given to Timberland by the Combs family through Mr. Baker's help.

C. Library Director - Louise E. Morrison

Mrs. Morrison reported that she, Mrs. Barton and Mrs. Stough met with the Chehalis Friends of the Library last night and the Chehalis Mayor was also present. They were there to make a brief presentation and to answer questions. Mrs. Morrison said that the City of Chehalis has fiscal problems just like every other city has, and Timberland has, mostly resulting from the 106% limitation. She stated that Mrs. Barton has made several presentations to various Chehalis officials, Mr. Crose has made a presentation to the City Council, and Mrs. Stough has talked with the Chehalis Library Board and Friends. Mrs. Morrison said that the City of Chehalis is trying to figure ways to lighten its fiscal load.

Mrs. Morrison further reported that the Packwood building remodeling is progressing on schedule. The reroofing has been completed and the architect and staff are ready to proceed with other repairs and changes pending the Board's approval tonight. Mrs. Morrison said she did proceed to sign for the altered property line which will also need to be ratified formally by the Board tonight.

Mrs. Harris mentioned that the Sunday hours experiment at the Olympia Library is ending on May 24. Mrs. Morrison reported that a press release has been sent out to the newspapers so that the public will be notified that the experiment is concluding. The Board will evaluate the experiment and decide if the Sunday hours should continue.

4 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

5 Unfinished Business

A. Selection of Timberland Attorney

Mrs. Harris reported that she and Dorothy Voege and Mrs. Morrison interviewed three attorneys who have indicated an interest in acting as Timberland's counsel. Mrs. Voege stated that she, Mrs. Harris and Mrs. Morrison all independently picked as their choice Mr. Herb Fuller. They all felt that he is an outstanding person and has impressive professional credentials. Mrs. Voege said she was impressed with Mr. Fuller's great interest in libraries, particularly Timberland. She said Mr. Fuller is knowledgeable about libraries. Mr. Law suggested that the motion be worded in such a way that it includes a proviso that a fee arrangement can be negotiated with the attorney the Board hires to the satisfaction of the Board Chair. Mrs. Voege said that a fee arrangement was discussed with each attorney and it was the general consensus that it might be wise to go on an hourly basis to begin with.

5A

81-31

DOROTHY VOEGE MOVED THAT THE BOARD HIRE HERB FULLER AS  
TIMBERLAND'S ATTORNEY PROVIDED THAT THE FEE ARRANGEMENT BE  
NEGOTIATED TO THE SATISFACTION OF THE BOARD CHAIR; PAUL  
POLILLO SECONDED THE MOTION.

Mr. Keiski said he has talked with Trustees at the Pierce County Library and was advised that it is imperative that the Board have control over the number of hours the attorney works since it will have an impact on the budget. Mr. Keiski said that the Board will have to determine when an assignment is given the maximum investment of hours to be allocated to that assignment. Mrs. Harris suggested that the attorney work with the Board for six months after which time the Board will have a better idea of what the relationship is developing into. She said that Mr. Fuller felt that attending the Board meetings should be his responsibility to begin with in order to familiarize himself with Timberland and that he should not necessarily be paid for it. Mr. Parsons stated that one of the concerns about the other two applicants is that they both represent cities which contract with Timberland for service. He said that he thinks it would be a good idea when a contract is drawn up with Mr. Fuller that he not become counsel for a city which contracts with Timberland for a specified period of time. Mrs. Harris stated that Mr. Fuller does not intend to and he does understand the problem. Mr. Law stated that since he himself is an attorney he will abstain from voting on this motion. He suggested that this year the Board budget a figure substantially higher than it has for attorney's fees since there are a backlog of problems for the attorney to deal with.

MOTION CARRIED. DON LAW ABSTAINED FROM VOTING.

B. Authorization to Proceed with Packwood Building

Mr. Polillo asked why the reroofing of the Packwood building was so high priced. Mrs. Morrison stated that it was because of the six dormers and mini valleys which had to have special treatment. Also, sheathing had to be put around the outside edge of the roof since there had never been any there before. Mr. Polillo stated that it looks like a large amount was spent for the roof, but he said that he recognizes that it is a large area. Mrs. Harris stated that the staff needs authorization from the Board to proceed with the rest of the remodeling.

81-32

PAUL POLILLO MOVED TO DIRECT TIMBERLAND STAFF TO PROCEED WITH  
THE ADDITIONAL CHANGES IN THE PACKWOOD BUILDING. ELMER KEISKI  
SECONDED THE MOTION.

Mr. Keiski stated that whatever Timberland invests in the Packwood building will be minimal in terms of the facility that Timberland will have. He said he is pleased that they did not run into any really serious problems with the roof. Mr. Keiski said that even if Timberland runs into any alteration changes which will cost more than the Board had originally anticipated, he thinks the Board should proceed with them now to get the building in shape so that it can function as a library. Mr. Keiski said he is in favor of going ahead with this work now while they have a contractor.

MOTION CARRIED.

5B

Mr. Keiski suggested that someone check the second floor to make sure that the one stairway already there is adequate or if it will be necessary to put in a fire escape. Mr. Crose stated that he would check into this.

C. Supply System

Mr. Law requested that he be designated as a Board member of the negotiating team working with the Supply System and that his activities be limited to acquainting himself with the issues and would not involve any communications by him with the Supply System people. Mr. Law stated that he thinks this is important in the interest of Timberland regarding the improvements which Timberland hopes to make and the impact on Timberland. He would like to be able to make periodic reports to other Board members and be able to outline what factors are in controversy in the negotiations. Mr. Law said he could, perhaps, make these reports in occasional Executive Sessions or in memos to the Board. Mrs. Harris asked when the negotiation meetings are usually held. Mrs. Barton replied they are held during the daytime. Mrs. Harris asked Mr. Law if he wishes to be able to sit in on these negotiation meetings as he is able. Mr. Law said he would make every effort to attend the meetings. He stated he would just wish to sit in on the meetings and he does not wish to actively participate in the negotiations. Mrs. Morrison stated that she honestly feels that the presence of a Board member at the negotiation sessions would place a damper on the negotiations. Mrs. Harris suggested that she meet with the person whom Timberland has hired to negotiate with the Supply System and discuss this with him before she makes any appointment. Mr. Law stated that he is asking for the opportunity to inquire freely and learn about what is going on. He said that he thinks it would be desirable for the Board to make it a habit to have an Executive Session at least every other meeting to discuss the negotiations with the Supply System and he suggested that they plan for an Executive Session at the June meeting for this purpose. Mrs. Harris stated that she will plan to call an Executive Session at the June meeting. Mr. Keiski said that he does not think that a Trustee sitting in on the negotiations would make an impact. He said that as Trustees they need to be on top of all these formal negotiations and they have a right to ask any questions at any time of anyone. Mr. Keiski said that from what he has read about the Supply System, he feels they are dealing with a group that does not have a good record. He said that the Trustees have a responsibility to the taxpayers to be on top of these negotiations. Mr. Keiski said that if Timberland is serious at all about the original claim, that the Trustees should have their act together since there may be a possibility that Timberland would have to sue the Supply System. Mrs. Harris appointed Mr. Law to act as liaison between the Board and the negotiating team. Mr. Law stated that the Board should have a concrete understanding of what is going on in these negotiations and that is the role he would like to provide.

6

New Business

- A. Ratification of Board member poll by telephone of Packwood Building roofing contract with Schwiesow Construction

6A

81-33

SHIRLEEN JOHNSON MOVED TO RATIFY THE POLL BY TELEPHONE OF BOARD MEMBERS OF THE PACKWOOD BUILDING ROOFING CONTRACT WITH SCHWIESOW CONSTRUCTION; PAUL POLILLO SECONDED THE MOTION.

Mr. Law said he was not polled and he would have to abstain from voting. Mrs. Morrison said she had been unable to reach him.

MOTION CARRIED. DON LAW ABSTAINED FROM VOTING.

B. Ratification of altered property line for the Combs property at Packwood

Mrs. Morrison stated that apparently there will never be a road put in between the library's property and where the trailer court is located. The suggestion was made by the attorney for the estate that the property line be put down the middle of the existing road. Mrs. Morrison said that Mrs. Combs is selling the trailer court, but the sale is being held up because of the property line problem. Mr. Polillo asked why the county did not want the roadway. Mrs. Morrison said that the county did not intend ever to put a street through and in fact signed a disclaimer to this right of way.

81-34

LARRY PARSONS MOVED TO RATIFY THE ALTERED PROPERTY LINE FOR THE COMBS PROPERTY AT PACKWOOD; SHIRLEEN JOHNSON SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED.

7

Other Agenda Items

A. Certificate of Appreciation - Kay Gifford, Yelm Board

Mrs. Harris signed a Certificate of Appreciation for Kay Gifford of the Yelm Library Board. Mrs. Stough agreed to see that Mrs. Gifford receives the Certificate.

B. Concerns of the Oakville Timberland Board - Lola Rudrud

Mrs. Rudrud asked Marj Thompson to speak about the concerns of the Oakville Library Board.

Mrs. Thompson stated that their concerns are the same concerns as every other small community, primarily how the City of Oakville can finance its library. She said the city is having a very difficult time financially. Mrs. Thompson said the amount of the contract fee that Oakville pays to Timberland sounds like a small amount to Timberland, but to the City of Oakville it is a large amount. She said that the contract fee increased nearly 100% from 1980 to 1981 and the City Council had a difficult time justifying this large amount for the library. Mrs. Thompson stated that the only reason the City could pay this in 1981 was because the Friends of the Oakville Library volunteered to pay the increase out of money which the Friends had raised for the building fund. She said that the city assesses \$1.68 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation and of that \$1.68

7B approximately 45¢ is for the library, 67¢ is for the fire district, and the remaining 56¢ is for running the rest of city government.

Mrs. Thompson said that another problem is space for the library. The space for the library is also used as city hall, as the police station, and as a courtroom. All records of the city are kept in the same building. Mrs. Thompson said it is a twofold problem--space and money--and each one hinges on the other.

Mrs. Thompson said she is aware that Timberland is hearing this from all the other cities, too, and it is a very difficult, if not impossible, problem. She said what the City of Oakville would like is for Timberland to give city officials some hope that the problem can be alleviated. Mrs. Thompson asked for suggestions. She said that there is at the present time a real threat that the library contract will be under heavy fire from the City Council this year. Mrs. Thompson said the Friends stepped in this year, but do not have the money to continue helping with the contract fee.

Mrs. Harris said she does not think anyone has any good suggestions for any immediate help. She said she is aware that the contract fee increased such a large amount because of reassessment. Mrs. Thompson recalled that Timberland staff had earlier advised the City of Oakville of a way to equalize the increase over a four-year period. Mr. Crose stated that the Timberland Board adopted an addendum to the current contract with the cities which allows this. He said that this year's contract fee for Oakville would become the basis for figuring next year's contract fee if the city decides to go this route. Mr. Law said that he thinks it is the consensus of the Board that these problems will be thoroughly analyzed so that the Board can adopt a district-wide policy. He said that Timberland has not had an attorney for several months and the Board's hands have been tied so they have not been able to respond in any way. Mr. Law said that there is no guarantee that these problems will be solved, as Timberland is caught in the same bind financially. Mrs. Thompson said she appreciates that the Board is aware of these problems and will be dealing with them. She said that everyone is all in this together and if they all work together, hopefully a solution will come. She said the major concern is to keep the library going since the library is the only cultural opportunity the residents of Oakville have in that area that is close, available and open to everyone. Mrs. Thompson stated that those people who are interested in libraries do not wish to lose it since it is an important part of the community.

Mrs. Johnson asked if there has been any discussion by the Oakville City Council to vote out the 106% limitation. Mrs. Meile said this has not been discussed at any great length. She said it is difficult in this area to pass any kind of change. She stated that this would take time and a lot of education as well as cooperation. She said Oakville has a great number of senior citizens, which also presents a problem. Mrs. Meile said there is a great deal of support for the library in Oakville. She said that putting the 106% limitation on the ballot would have to be done in conjunction with school legislation since elections are an expensive process.



7B

Mr. Keiski advised that the City of Cosmopolis is going after a grant for a new city hall/library complex. Mrs. Meile said that the City of Oakville has already tried that route. Mrs. Thompson stated that Oakville has made three grant applications in the past six years. Mrs. Thompson said the city has been talking about the possibility of financing a modular type building for city government and the library which would take bonds and would have to go to the vote of the people. She said at least 50% of the residents of Oakville are senior citizens and the City Council is hesitant in suggesting an extra burden on these people. Many of the senior citizens have lived in Oakville most of their lives. Mrs. Stough asked if the City has discussed annexation to Timberland. Mrs. Meile stated that Oakville's attorney has advised against this since it would be an extremely expensive process.

Mrs. Meile asked about the towns that do not contract with Timberland. Mrs. Morrison explained that cities can contract or not contract with Timberland. Mrs. Meile asked about Montesano. Mrs. Morrison explained that Montesano pays its contract fee but is exempt from building support because before Timberland was formed, The Grays Harbor Regional Library was given the library building in Montesano by the city. She said that it had been built by the city from the W. H. Abel Memorial Fund. Since the City of Montesano could not afford to support the building, it asked the Grays Harbor Regional Library if the city could give the building to the library district and if the district would continue to serve the city as long as the city paid the contract fee. The Grays Harbor Regional Library agreed to this. When Timberland was formed it superseded all the other library districts which existed in the five counties and all assets and liabilities came to Timberland. Mrs. Morrison said for that reason Timberland does own and operate the building in Montesano. She said that the City of Montesano pays its contract fee on the same basis as the City of Oakville and other cities do.

Mr. Keiski said there is another option, but not one that he is advocating. He explained that Ocean Shores was at one time part of Timberland and when Ocean Shores incorporated it opted not to contract. Ocean Shores still maintains a library and he suggested that Oakville might wish to check with Ocean Shores to see if that is the kind of library service the City of Oakville would like to provide.

Mrs. Meile asked what advantage there is to Oakville when people who are not residents of Oakville can use that library. Mrs. Morrison stated that Oakville's contract fee could not begin to pay even the salaries of staff in the library and the unincorporated area is helping to pay for the services from the Oakville building, and uses those services. She said that it is an advantage to both the city and Timberland if the city contracts with the library district.

Mr. Law explained the legislation which allows a city to annex to a library district for purposes of library service only. He said that instead of a city paying a contract fee, Timberland would be able to levy a tax on the residents of the city in the same manner as is done in unincorporated areas.

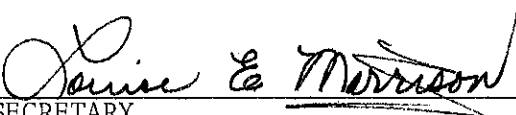
Mrs. Thompson asked what will happen if small communities have to cancel their contracts with Timberland and people in the rural areas

7B will be paying for library service but with no library accessible. She asked if Timberland would then consider putting a building in the unincorporated area. Mr. Law stated that that is a possibility but that the residents of Oakville then could not use the library unless they pay an individual non-resident fee. Mr. Keiski said that Oakville residents could use the library also if they own property in the unincorporated area.

Mrs. Morrison explained that if the City of Oakville did decide to try to annex to the library district, it would need to be approved also by the Timberland Board. Mrs. Morrison cautioned that if the City of Oakville does decide to put this issue on the ballot, that they be very careful in the campaign so that people really understand the issue.

One guest present mentioned that Kit Machin had kept some statistics at one time of the people who used the library. Mrs. Machin said she took two weeks during the summer and two weeks during the winter and found that 7% to 10% of the people using the library were from Rochester, 50% from county and 50% city residents, and 5% to 7% were mailouts to people within the district.

Mrs. Harris reminded the Board members of the next meeting on June 18 at the Service Center. There was no further business and the meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

  
SECRETARY

  
CHAIR