

TIMBERLAND REGIONAL LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
Centralia Timberland Library, 110 So. Silver, Centralia, WA 98531

March 17, 1982

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March 17, 1982

M I N U T E S

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dorothy Voege, Chair - Grays Harbor County
Doris Fourre - Thurston County
Jean Haakenson - Member-at-Large
Alice Harris - Mason County
Donald L. Law - Member-at-Large
Larry Parsons - Lewis County
Paul Polillo - Pacific County

STAFF PRESENT:

Louise E. Morrison, Library Director
Virginia Barton, Associate Director for Research & Planning
Mary Stough, Assistant Director for Public Services
Sally Loken, Assistant Director for Central Services
Tom Mayer, Supervisor-Personnel Administration
Michael Crose, Business Manager
Josephine Hagen, Centralia Staff
Helga Holmes, Centralia Staff
Tom Joselyn, Chehalis Librarian
Lori Kuder, Centralia Staff
Chapple Langemack, North Mason Librarian
Ione Mason, Centralia Staff
Darlene McLernan, Service Center Staff
Marian Osterby, Centralia Librarian
Christina Sayers, Centralia Staff
Edie Shea, Centralia Staff
Betty Sholund, Olympia Staff
Bob Zimmerman, Centralia Staff

Herbert H. Fuller, Timberland Attorney
Liane Bascou, Board Recording Secretary

GUESTS PRESENT (Partial List):

Roseanne Bridgham, Former Centralia Library Board Member
Bruce Craig, Centralia Library Board
Pat Denny, Former Centralia Library Board Member
Dayton Garrison, Centralia Library Board
Jack Gelder, Centralia City Commissioner of Finance
Dorothy Halliday, Former Centralia Library Staff
Shirleen Johnson, Former Timberland Board Member
Esther Kletsch, Centralia Library Board
William Lawrence, Former Timberland Board Member
Joseph Mano, Jr., Centralia Library Board
Bill Moeller, Centralia Mayor
Frank Rosa, Former Centralia Library Board Member
Agnes Salewsky, Centralia Library Board Chair
Joanna Toothaker, Former Centralia Library Board Member
Shirley Waugh, Centralia Library Friends President
Sue Whitham, Former Centralia Staff
Phillip Wickstrom, Former Centralia Library Board Member

Mrs. Voegel called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Mrs. Voegel introduced the TRL Board members and explained that there are seven members representing the five counties in the library district, two of which are from Lewis County. Introductions were made of TRL staff, former staff, former TRL Board members, Centralia Board members and former Centralia Board members, Centralia Library Friends President, and Centralia City Mayor and City Commissioner.

AGENDA ITEM
NO.

- 1 Approval of Minutes of the February 17, 1982 Meeting

82-20 LARRY PARSONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 17, 1982 MEETING; JEAN HAAKENSEN SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED.

- 2 Approval of Vouchers

Mrs. Voegel stated that payroll and payroll related vouchers for the month of February 1982 amounted to \$244,593.61. She explained that staff requested that the Board approve the voucher for the automated circulation system tonight separate from the other vouchers because the equipment is due to arrive anytime, and it will allow the staff to keep these funds invested until the last possible moment.

82-21 ALICE HARRIS MOVED TO APPROVE VOUCHERS NO. 10209 THROUGH NO. 10370 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$72,261.41; PAUL POLILLO SECONDED THE MOTION.

Mrs. Voegel questioned voucher No. 10258 to Oakes Auto & Truck in the amount of \$98.90. Mr. Crose stated that this is for work done on the Lewis County bookmobile which is housed at the Centralia library.

MOTION CARRIED.

82-22 DORIS FOURRE MOVED TO APPROVE VOUCHER NO. 10371 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$406,932 FOR MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT FOR THE AUTOMATED CIRCULATION SYSTEM; LARRY PARSONS SECONDED THE MOTION.

Mr. Law said that since this is such a substantial amount, an explanation should be made as to what this is for. Mr. Crose stated that this represents Timberland's one-third share of the central processing unit of the automated circulation system. It is also for 61 terminals which will be used in the Timberland libraries.

MOTION CARRIED.

- 3 Reports

A. Business Manager - Michael Crose

Mr. Crose had nothing further to add to his written report.

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B. Board Member Reports - Doris Fourre, Jean Haakenson, Alice Harris - Intellectual Freedom Workshop February 19, 1982

Mrs. Harris reported that this was the regular meeting of the West Library Service Area held at Bremerton. She said the afternoon program included two speakers who spoke on the subject of freedom of expression. One of the speakers was an attorney from Seattle who said that he had always taken libraries for granted all his life and always assumed that libraries would always be there when he needed them. He said since he had become actively concerned with freedom of expression, he has had a lot of opportunities to talk with library people. He said many positive things about libraries and said that he considers the documents already adopted by libraries with regard to freedom of expression as superb. He cited some court cases. One thing he stressed was that in his opinion (speaking for both libraries and schools) it is necessary to have well thought out written procedures to deal with problems and complaints. He said that it is important to have a book selection policy to adhere to and that complaints should be in writing. Mrs. Harris said that Timberland has already done all of this work through its good management team and director. She said that Timberland has good firm written procedures and guidelines to refer to.

Mrs. Haakenson said this was the first meeting she attended as a TRL Board member. She said she was impressed with both the speakers. She said it was frightening to hear the speakers talk about censorship in regard to schools and libraries and it made her very aware of the fact that government and small groups should not be allowed to determine censorship but that it is each person's responsibility.

Mrs. Fourre said she agrees with the other comments. She said she is concerned with companies such as the Gablers in Texas that send out a textbook research analysis for a tax deductible \$5 and they give every possible way to circumvent freedom of expression and how to try to control school and public libraries. She said she would like to have Nancy Motomatsu's presentation given to TRL staff. Mrs. Stough stated that Ms. Motomatsu already has spoken with TRL staff on the subject.

C. Timberland Attorney - Herbert H. Fuller

Mr. Fuller said he is working on an opinion for the Board at the present time which he will be sending shortly. He had nothing further to report.

D. Library Director - Louise E. Morrison

Mrs. Morrison reported that today she received notification of a meeting of the Governor's Working Conference on Rural Problems committee which is to take place in Moses Lake, and she assumes that the Board wishes her to attend.

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Correspondence

B. 3/2/82 Letter from Pacific County Library Board of Commissioners Confirming Doris Fourre's Appointment to Board of Trustees

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- C. 3/2/82 Letter from Grays Harbor County Board of Commissioners Confirming Doris Fourre's Appointment to Board of Trustees
 - D. 3/3/82 Letter from Mason County Board of Commissioners Confirming Doris Fourre's Appointment to Board of Trustees
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Mrs. Voegel acknowledged receipt of the letters from Boards of Commissioners confirming Doris Fourre's appointment to the TRL Board of Trustees.

- F. 3/3/82 Letter from South Mason Staff

Mrs. Voegel stated that the South Mason staff has invited the TRL Board to meet at the South Mason Library and has also invited the Board to dinner. It was agreeable to the Board to meet at the South Mason Library on April 21, 1982. Mrs. Voegel asked Alice Harris to take responsibility for the arrangements.

- A. Letter and Resolution from Centralia City Commission

Mrs. Voegel said that this letter and resolution cancels the Centralia City contract with Timberland effective December 31, 1982. She said that the Board accepts this cancellation.

5 Unfinished Business

- A. Centralia Contract

Mrs. Voegel asked Agnes Salewsky, Chair of the Centralia Library Board, to speak first. Mrs. Salewsky said that the Centralia Library Board has submitted a letter to the Centralia City Commission and she read the letter in order that all present would know the Centralia Library Board's position.

"The Trustees of the Centralia Timberland Library strongly recommend that the City Commission place the library annexation issue on the ballot in September, 1982. The Trustees also recommend that a special levy issue be placed on the same ballot to provide funding for the Timberland contract fee in 1983, since the annexation would not be effective until January 1, 1984. The Board makes this recommendation so that there will be no disruption of the high standard of library service which Centralia patrons have had since 1968.

"The Board recognizes that it would be unfair to ask the Timberland Board to negotiate in a different manner with the Centralia library, since eleven other cities are covered under the standard contract for services. Centralia shares the common problem of these cities to fund the annual library contract in face of increased inflation and the elimination of Federal funds to assist cities. We are convinced that annexation to the Library District is the best answer.

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"The City Commission and the citizens are protected by the fact that annexation to Timberland is reversible if it proves to be unsatisfactory. Therefore, we, the duly appointed Board of Trustees, recommend the above action to the Centralia City Commission."

Mrs. Salewsky stated that it is a common fact that the City of Centralia cannot afford to pay for library service and if the citizens of the City of Centralia want library service, they will have to pay for it. She said that the library is one of the most important assets in the community and without this service, everyone will be losers, especially the children and senior citizens. Mrs. Salewsky said that the business community would also lose many potential customers because the library is located in the heart of Centralia and attracts people in Lewis County who use the facility and who use the businesses in the area. She stated that when business and industry come into an area, they look to see what services are available and a library is one of those services. Mrs. Salewsky cited some costs. She said that in 1982 the library district's levy rate was established at 37.68¢ per thousand dollars of assessed valuation. A homeowner with a house valued at \$50,000 would pay \$18.84 a year for library service at that rate. Mrs. Salewsky asked everyone to stop and think about how many books, magazines, newspapers, reference materials, films, etc. could be bought in one year for \$18.84. She said the citizens of Centralia can come to the library and receive these services for one year free of charge, plus they have access to the entire collection of the Timberland system. Mrs. Salewsky said these are some of the reasons why the Centralia Board is requesting that the City of Centralia resubmit the annexation levy to the voters of Centralia.

Mrs. Voege explained that Timberland is the unincorporated areas of Grays Harbor, Lewis, Mason, Pacific and Thurston Counties. In addition, Timberland offers library services under a contract to cities and that is the relationship that Timberland has enjoyed with the City of Centralia. She said that the contract fee to the cities is based on the same rate as the unincorporated areas. Mrs. Voege said that the levy rate for the library district is going down each year because Timberland is ruled by the 106% limitation. She stated that Timberland has a unique relationship with the cities which contract with Timberland and the Board would like to keep the cities in the district. Mr. Law stated that he thinks it is important that people understand that the levy rate has gone down because the assessed valuation has gone up.

Mrs. Voege next called on Mayor Moeller to speak. Mr. Moeller thanked everyone for coming to the meeting to share some of the city's problems and hopefully to hear some solutions to the problems. He stated that the City of Centralia was reevaluated this year to take effect in 1983. He has received information from the assessor's office that the assessed value will double. Assuming that Timberland will levy about 35¢ per thousand dollars in 1983, Mr. Moeller said it would mean that Centralia's contract

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fee would be about \$120,000 in 1983. He stated it was for this reason that the annexation issue was put on the ballot, which annexation failed. Mr. Moeller said the City had to take the next step which was to formally cancel its contract with Timberland since there is no way that the city can afford to pay \$120,000 for library service since cuts have had to be made in other city departments. Mr. Moeller said that he has discussed with several people the possibility of putting the annexation matter on the ballot this fall and many seem to be in favor of it, as well as putting a separate issue on the ballot for a special levy to make up the difference of what the city could not afford to pay for library service in 1983. He said there are drawbacks to this, one of which is that this comes late in the year and the city likes to have plans firmed up by that time.

Mr. Moeller said he would like to make a few suggestions to the Timberland Board. One suggestion was to waive the March 1 deadline of setting the boundary but he understands that this is a state law and cannot be waived. Mr. Moeller proposed that the library district help the City of Centralia financially for the year 1983. He said he knows there is reluctance about this because Centralia should not be treated as a special case. There are two reasons that he is proposing this anyway. One is that the Centralia library furnishes the library district with space for offices and storage for books. If the special levy and annexation would fail, then the library district would have to find some other facility to serve the people of Lewis County, which Mr. Moeller said would be an expensive process. Another factor is that when the building was remodeled, special provision was made for the bookmobile. Mr. Moeller said the city library would not need garage space. He said that he thinks Centralia is in a special category because of the things that the City of Centralia has given to the library system in past years. He said he does not mean to sound disrespectful, but several people feel that perhaps the district owes the City of Centralia something.

Mr. Moeller said another suggestion is that Timberland offer the City of Centralia limited library service for a smaller contract fee. He said that this has never been done in any other cities. He stated that another solution might be a combination of the last two suggestions. Mr. Moeller stated that the main benefit from these requests, from Timberland's standpoint, is that it would settle things now rather than waiting for a possible election in September as to what might happen in 1983. He said that perhaps Timberland can, if not bend the rules, at least take under consideration the special factors of Centralia's contributions to the library district.

Mr. Law stated that he lives in an unincorporated area and uses the Olympia library. He said that Olympia has the same situation as Centralia in terms of a regional hub. Mr. Law said that the City of Olympia passed a bond issue to pay for the new Olympia library. Mr. Law asked Mr. Moeller who paid for the storage space in the Centralia library which houses the bookmobile. Mr. Moeller replied that it was paid for by a grant from federal grant monies. Mr. Law said that he would like some answers with

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regard to Centralia's budget in terms of percentages of various revenue sources. Mr. Moeller said that Mr. Gelder could furnish that information. Mr. Law said he is particularly interested in how much revenue comes from what sources. Mr. Moeller stated that the city received about \$450,000 in property taxes and about the same amount from sales taxes, and smaller amounts from other minor taxes collected and distributed by the state.

Mrs. Voegel referred to a statistics sheet setting out the costs of the Centralia library to Timberland, what the library's contract fees have been the past several years, and use of the library. These statistics were made available to everyone. Mrs. Voegel said that she thinks it is important that the citizens of Centralia, in order to make a wise and knowledgeable decision on what they want to do about library service, need to know the correct facts. She said they need to know what Timberland is and understand the relationship between Centralia and Timberland, how Timberland is financed, and what those amounts are. For instance, Mrs. Voegel said that in 1976 the City of Centralia paid \$48,036 for library service and Timberland spent \$152,825 to run the library in Centralia.

Bill Lawrence referred to what Mrs. Salewsky had said about what it would cost a homeowner with a \$50,000 house for library service. He said this may be a generous assessment for a number of homes in Centralia. He asked what fee Timberland would charge Centralia citizens to use Timberland facilities if the city does not contract with the library district. Mrs. Voegel said it would cost a non-resident fee of \$30.00 per year for each person.

A gentleman in the audience asked if Timberland could cut the budget in the Centralia library. Mrs. Voegel stated that that would not be possible because Timberland is a district and all cities have to be treated equally. Another gentleman asked if this is state law, and Mrs. Voegel replied that this is how the district is run. Mr. Law stated that there are a number of cities which contract with Timberland and he does not think that the law would allow Timberland to reduce service to one city and give that city a break in its contract fee. He said the law is very explicit of what the contract fee will be. Mr. Law said the point he would like to stress is that there isn't any lawful reason by the statute why the entire budget of Timberland Regional Library could not be cut by 10%. He said that is lawful. Mr. Law said he is not suggesting that this be done, but he gave a pledge that he as a Trustee within the next six months will do everything he can in reviewing the Timberland budget to see where those budget cuts can realistically be made. He said he is frankly optimistic that Timberland should be able to cut its budget. Mr. Law said that Timberland cannot give special privileges to Centralia, but he sees no reason lawfully why the Timberland Board cannot reduce the Timberland budget.

A gentleman asked some questions about Timberland's 1982 budget, a copy of which he had in hand. He was particularly interested in what professional services are. Mr. Crose explained that

5A Timberland breaks expenditures down into four basic categories-- Administration, Public Service, Organization of Materials, and Facilities. He said that the accounting structure must be set up according to the dictates of Washington State law. Under each of these categories are breakdowns for personal services and benefits related to personal services, supplies, professional services, miscellaneous expenditures, janitorial services, telephone charges, etc.

Esther Kletsch stated that she has received questions from friends who live in the county. They want to know what will happen if Centralia does not annex, since they have paid for library service and use the Centralia library. Mrs. Voegel stated that it is Timberland's charge to serve the people in the unincorporated areas and Timberland would relocate and serve those people and serve Centralia city residents who desired the service at \$30 per person per year.

A gentleman pointed out that people living in the unincorporated areas have been reassessed also and their taxes are going up. He asked what planning is going on now, assuming the worst that Centralia will not be part of Timberland. Mrs. Morrison replied that it has not been staff's position to do a great deal of planning until they discover what the people of Centralia want to do. She said staff is prepared to do serious planning as soon as there is a necessity for it. She stressed that Timberland will serve the people in the unincorporated area. Mrs. Harris said that no one who lives in unincorporated areas should worry as Trustees are aware that Timberland was formed to serve county residents. She said that she personally would be very sad to lose Centralia as a contracting city. But, she said that whatever happens between the City of Centralia and the library district, there will be service to people in the county since that is the Trustees' mandate.

Mrs. Kletsch referred to a remark made by Mr. Moeller that Timberland owes Centralia something. She said that as she sees it, Timberland is paying an enormous price for providing library service in the Centralia library. She asked if this is because Centralia is also serving the county people out of that library. Mrs. Voegel said that the difference between the contract fee paid by Centralia and the amount spent by Timberland to serve Centralia is made up by what county residents pay.

A gentleman asked if it would be possible, in the event that the city annexation measure does not pass, for the library district to use the Centralia building to serve county residents. Mrs. Morrison stated that she would not recommend this because it would end up treating Centralia differently from other cities. She said it would cost to move out of the Centralia building, but it would not be that expensive, and she said she suspects that the library district could build or lease a library in the unincorporated area for a reasonable amount. She said that the law also states that the public library will serve the jurisdiction in which it is located, and she does not see how they could locate the library in Centralia if Centralia does not contract.

5A Mrs. Morrison said that she thinks that Timberland would try to get a reading from the people in the unincorporated area as to how they could best serve the most people.

Dr. Lawrence said he would like to speak as an individual, as a member of a college board and as a resident of the county. Dr. Lawrence stated that he has had the experience of serving both on the Timberland Board as a charter trustee and on the Centralia College Board. He said he is involved in library business in both an educational aspect and in recreational reading. Dr. Lawrence said the City of Centralia is quite proud of the Centralia College and he stated that the Centralia School District is excellently run. He said that both of these educational units that are located in the community have come to view the Centralia library as a resource for their activities. Dr. Lawrence said there has been considerable discussion in the past as to the role of school libraries vs. public libraries and a distinction has to be drawn. He said all a person has to do is come to the Centralia library and see the large number of young people using the library. He said that the college maintains a library of a specialized sort for its needs and this does not represent a resource that the community can draw on as it would a public library. He noted that the college does not have the facilities to handle the public and the book selection is not conducive to informal or recreational reading. He said that the college library has tried to develop outreach programs in the community, but this, too, has to be on a charge basis. Dr. Lawrence said he thinks the rumors and comments he has heard that library service could be shifted to the college and schools is a fallacy and it should be clearly understood that those systems are developed for special purposes. He said that he wanted to point out that as a member of the college board, he has used Timberland as a resource. He said the library is situated close to the college and an important adjunct to the educational library maintained at the college.

Mrs. Kletsch said that she had done some research and contacted both the high school and college in regard to use by the public of their libraries. She was told that use by the public would be extremely limited. The public can use the college's books, but cannot check them out of the library. The high school library could only be used after hours on an extremely limited basis.

There was a question regarding the statistical sheet made available as to the definition of materials. Mrs. Morrison said this refers to the materials that are assigned to the Centralia library, including books, records, cassettes, films, maps, pamphlets, magazines, newspapers, etc. These materials may be moved to another Timberland library next year. Mrs. Morrison explained that the materials are moved freely throughout the library district from one library to another.

Mr. Law stated that he very much agrees with the frustrations heard in terms of lack of understanding of what Timberland is and this

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is damaging because people become apprehensive. He said that Timberland is a five-county library system and covers a large area. He said that the Board normally holds its monthly meetings at the Service Center in Olympia. Mr. Law said those meetings are attended by virtually no one other than the trustees and staff employed by the library district. He said he has to believe there is not a single person here tonight who believes it would be anything other than a tragedy and a travesty of rational thinking to have this library cease to serve as a Timberland library. He said there has been a lot of talk that this is a regional library and serves the unincorporated area and that is where the Board's legal obligation is. Mr. Law stated that people should not be misled by that talk because Board members recognize the critical importance of these communities to society and to the library system. He said that Timberland cannot function without the cities and thinks everyone agrees that it is critical that the Centralia library be maintained as the focus for the Timberland Regional Library system in this area. He said he has made a personal commitment to himself to do everything he can to look at the Timberland budget as a whole and to foster good analysis by this Board of that budget. He said that he thinks it is great that there are so many people present at the meeting tonight and wishes there would be more meetings like this. He said what is needed is people to come to the Board meetings on a regular basis and he thinks that the next six months is critical to the community of Centralia. Mr. Law said there should be people monitoring what the Board does. He said he thinks it would be a good idea if this library Board meets again at Centralia in July and at that time hopefully there will be people present from the City of Centralia, people who are acutely interested in the budget who will have watched them, as Board members, perform. At that time, people can tell the Board that they have been watching the Board and let them know whether they think they are or are not doing a good job.

A member of the audience mentioned that she had moved to this area from California and she was amazed when she came to Centralia library that she was not bombarded with requests for ID and library fines. She said the only time she hears about the Centralia library is when they run into problems. She asked if there are any provisions at all to let people know that the library is there. She said that Proposition 13 in California affected libraries. That was the first place that was cut. She said that she finds a lack of communication for library services. People are not willing to pay for them. Mr. Parsons stated that he is very concerned with communications, specifically between the Board, city library boards, Friends of the library and people who use the library. He said he has been looking into public relations but this also equals dollars and cents which is another added expenditure. He said he hopes that by next month he will have more to say about this subject. Mr. Parsons invited people to call him whenever they have questions about Timberland.

Dorothy Halliday said that she thinks the point is well taken about the lack of communication. She said there should have been

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more publicity about the annexation election. She stated that people just did not really understand how crucial it was. Mr. Parsons said he asked at one meeting for a legal opinion from Timberland's attorney as to what Board and staff could do before the annexation elections. He said that Centralia's Friends group was just getting organized and staff members in Centralia were limited by law as to what they could and could not do, as was the Board. Mrs. Voegel said that Timberland could supply information only and it was up to the City of Centralia to inform the people of what would happen if it did not pass. She said that 6 out of 7 annexation measures within Timberland passed. Mrs. Voegel said that Timberland made an information sheet available to the people who came into the library. Mrs. Salewsky said that the library people were informed about 4 weeks before that the annexation measure would be presented to the voters and there was not much time to inform people. Marlene Crawford, a teacher, said that if teachers had been given adequate time to organize, they could have supported the library because they use it. There was a question as to whether it would cost the people more if they annexed. Mrs. Voegel explained that the rate would be the same, whatever the levy rate happens to be, and that city residents would have this as a separate item on their tax bills the same as county residents do.

There was a question as to what percent the city pays for library service. Mr. Gelder said that in 1982, the library contract fee and the cost of maintaining the building is about \$100,000, not just the \$64,000 contract fee paid to Timberland. He said that if this were taken out of the \$450,000 received in property taxes, it would be about 20% of that amount. In 1982, the citizens of Centralia will be paying \$3.21½ per thousand dollars of assessed valuation to the city. Mr. Gelder said that the expense budget for the City of Centralia in 1982 is 1.7 million dollars. He stated that Centralia has been funding library service for a number of years out of federal revenue sharing funds. In 1982, federal revenue sharing funds amount to about \$145,000. He said if the city did not receive federal revenue sharing funds, it would be in real bad shape to fund the library without some new form of tax. Mr. Gelder asked if the library should not be funded like the emergency medical service. He said he is not anti-library and that libraries have their function, but he said he does not think they need it as "cadillac" as Centralia has. He said that the state, counties and cities are in financial trouble and he sees the Board approving a voucher for over \$400,000 for equipment. He said one reason he pays the contract fee out of federal revenue sharing funds is because that money comes in quarterly and the Timberland contract payment is due quarterly. Mr. Law said he would like to clarify the \$406,000 voucher approved earlier. He said this is for a project for a computerized circulation system for the entire library district that Timberland is sharing with the State Library and The Evergreen State College. He said that this is the CALS system. Mr. Law said it should also be clarified as to what occurs when a city annexes to a library district. If a city annexed to Timberland, a slice

5A of the pie of the city in terms of its expenditures that previously went to library service is removed and means that the city can spend that money on other things. Mr. Gelder said that if Centralia does not annex to the library district, the city would have to go to a general bond or B & O tax, something that might be devastating at this time to businesses who are already struggling. He said the city has to choose priorities and the situation is aggravated by the elimination of federal revenue sharing. He said the city has cut back on police, firemen, and less work on the streets. Mr. Gelder said he wants to impress on the citizens of Centralia that the City Commission is not playing games with anyone but that this is reality. He said that whatever happens, they should take the next few months to really work on this situation and by July it should be fact gathering time and time to analyze the situation properly. He said that the City Commission's purpose when it canceled the contract with Timberland was to get the issue out in the open and have the citizens of Centralia help the Commissioners decide what to do.

Frank Rosa said that he is sad that this whole issue has come to this. He said it goes against everything he has been taught to believe about the responsibility of citizens to the community and the responsibility of the community to its citizens. He said that some of the people have grandfathers who gave up pay in order to build libraries. He said if the annexation issue is submitted to the voters again, he hopes it will not be defeated. He said that every good community needs a police department and fire department and it is a healthy community that does not need to use them. He said he thinks every community needs a library and a community that feels it does not need a library or is indifferent to libraries he thinks is unhealthy. Mr. Rosa said he is surprised that the merchants of Centralia and other influential people are not out "beating the drums" to get annexation passed and he is surprised that the Chamber of Commerce has not endorsed it. He said he is even more surprised that the elected officials who are to show a community what it ought to be or become are not out drumming up lots of spirit to pass this ballot issue. Mr. Rosa said he suspects that it would be defeated again for the same reason: because of lack of support by these same people.

Mr. Polillo stated that he thinks it would be a good idea to have another meeting in Centralia in July.

82-23

PAUL POLILLO MOVED THAT THE TIMBERLAND BOARD MEET AT THE CENTRALIA LIBRARY IN JULY 1982; DON LAW SECONDED THE MOTION.

Mr. Parsons asked if June might not be a better time. Mrs. Harris said she has no objection to meeting at Centralia as many times as necessary if the Board can really be of help. She said that the Board cannot solve Centralia's problem. She said the Board cannot tell Centralia how to fund library service.

82-24

PAUL POLILLO AMENDED HIS MOTION AND MOVED THAT THE TIMBERLAND BOARD MEET AT THE CENTRALIA LIBRARY IN JUNE 1982; DON LAW SECONDED THE MOTION.

5A Mr. Polillo said that perhaps they cannot do much as a Board but they can be available for discussion.

82-25 LARRY PARSONS MOVED AND DON LAW SECONDED TO TABLE THE MOTION UNTIL THE BOARD HEARS COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE.

Marlene Crawford asked what the purpose of this meeting would be. Mr. Law said the meeting in June would particularly be devoted to the budget in terms of how much progress the Board has made to get the budget down to reduce the burden on everyone. However, he said it is a regular meeting and the agenda is set ahead of time. If people have an interest in a particular subject matter, he said he thinks the Board has been more than cooperative in scheduling agenda items that would be advertised before the meeting. Mrs. Voege stated that she thinks the point of the motion for meeting in Centralia in June is that in the meantime, Centralia will have made some progress in discussing its problems and possible solutions. She said that Timberland is still offering the same contract to Centralia. She stressed that there are two Timberland Trustees who represent Lewis County who are available to talk to people and who have access to data that anyone might need.

Dr. Lawrence said he thinks that there are two issues and people are getting confused. He said that Mr. Law has declared publicly that he will scrutinize the Timberland budget and he assumes that all the Trustees have that same view. He stated that this is one issue which is the business of the Timberland Board and not the business of the community of Centralia per se. Dr. Lawrence said the second issue is the election which has to be dealt with by the public in Centralia and not by the Board. He said that he does not think the community should be misled that the Board will meet in Centralia and propose any course of action that the community should take. He said there is no public action the Board can take to help Centralia out of this dilemma and the people should be aware of this. Mrs. Fourre said she would like to speak against this motion. She said she thinks that the Centralia Board should be holding a meeting for the citizenry and asking anyone they wish from Timberland to attend the meeting to help answer questions.

82-24 PAUL POLILLO AND DON LAW VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION.
DORIS FOURRE, ALICE HARRIS, LARRY PARSONS AND JEAN
HAAKENSEN VOTED AGAINST THE MOTION. MOTION FAILED.

Mr. Parsons said he would be willing to come to any meetings in Centralia if he is asked and supply any information requested.

There was a question of how many people belong to the Friends of the Centralia Library. Mrs. Waugh stated that she did not have any membership figures with her. Marian Osterby said she thinks there are about 40 paid members.

Mr. Moeller said he would like to speak in defense of why there was such short notice before the February annexation election.

5A He said there was a movement among various cities which contract with Timberland to work out a formula for contract fees. This broke down just before the deadline of getting an annexation measure on the ballot and there was nothing else to do. Mr. Parsons said that legislation had also just gone through enabling cities of larger population to do this.

A comment was made that some years ago when the City of Centralia began to receive federal revenue sharing funds, it was pointed out to the city at that time and each year since then that these federal revenue sharing funds might not be available forever and the city should find some other means of funding the library that is more stable. The woman said that the city has chosen not to do this and the point should be made that this is not something that has just come up this year but that the city has been aware of it for some years.

Mrs. Voege thanked everyone for their comments and questions and said the Board appreciates everyone's time and thoughts. She asked that people not believe that the Board is unfeeling or uncaring. She stated that the Board has certain legal limitations and there are certain proper actions the Board must take, but the Board is open to considering Centralia's problems. However, she said that most of their problems are internal and local and are not things that the Board can handle for them. Mrs. Voege said the Board has learned a great deal from this meeting and hopes that the people in turn have learned what the relationship between the City of Centralia and Timberland is and what Timberland is. She said that when people understand this and what the limitations are, they can make decisions.

The meeting recessed at 9:25 p.m. and reconvened at 9:40 p.m.

6 New Business

A. Executive Session

Mr. Law requested a short Executive Session after the meeting.

82-26

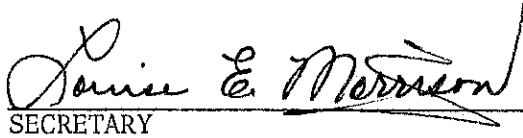
DON LAW MOVED THAT THE BOARD MEET IN EXECUTIVE SESSION AFTER THE MEETING REGARDING THE AD HOC TASK FORCE ON RIF PROCEDURES; LARRY PARSONS SECONDED THE MOTION.

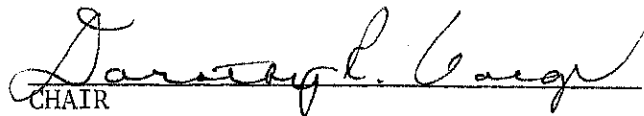
Mr. Law stated that he sent out a letter to Board members about his concern for things going on in regard to the ad hoc task force on reduction in force in a situation where the Board had virtually no input in terms of management's position. Mr. Parsons stated that he thinks the Board wants input before policy is made and Mr. Law agreed. Mr. Parsons asked if the Board would have time to handle this next month. Mr. Law said he thinks an in-depth discussion should go on next month but what he is asking for is a freeze on what is going on right now and he would like this clarified.

6A

DON LAW, LARRY PARSONS, DORIS FOURRE, JEAN HAAKENSON AND
PAUL POLILLO VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION; ALICE HARRIS
VOTED AGAINST THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED.

There was no further business and the meeting adjourned at 9:45
p.m. The Board went into Executive Session.


SECRETARY


CHAIR