

TIMBERLAND REGIONAL LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
415 Airdustrial Way S.W., Olympia, WA 98501

January 19, 1983

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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
Mary Stough, Assistant Director for Public Services
Sally Loken, Assistant Director for Central Services
Tom Mayer, Supervisor-Personnel Administration
Mike Crose, Business Manager
Vicky Campbell, Youth Services Coordinator
Chapple Langemack, North Mason Librarian
Joyce Nichols, Tumwater Librarian
Marian Osterby, Centralia Librarian
Kitty Schiltz, Non-Book Materials Coordinator
Mary Ann Shaffer, Montesano Librarian

GUEST PRESENT:

Rev. Elmer Scott

Mrs. Voege called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM
NO.

- 1 Approval of Minutes of the December 15, 1982 Meeting

Mrs. Voege stated that Board members already have received a correction to the minutes as requested by Don Law.

- 83-2 ALICE HARRIS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 15, 1982 MEETING AS CORRECTED; PAUL POLILLO SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED.

- 2 Approval of Vouchers

Mrs. Voege stated that payroll and payroll-related vouchers for the month of December 1982 had amounted to \$253,079.22. She said there are two sets of vouchers for Board's approval, including December finals and January vouchers.

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83-3

LARRY PARSONS MOVED TO APPROVE VOUCHERS NO. 11909 THROUGH NO. 11934 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$6,261.44 AND VOUCHERS NO. 11935 THROUGH NO. 12064 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$86,034.68; JEAN HAAKENSEN SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED.

Mrs. Voegel suspended the order of business and moved to Agenda Item No. 6B.

6 New Business

B. Complaint about library material from Rev. Elmer Scott

Mrs. Voegel stated that Rev. Scott has driven to tonight's meeting because he feels deeply concerned about a George Carlin cassette tape from one of the Timberland libraries.

The Reverend Mr. Scott thanked Timberland for the fine work its staff is doing. He said he often goes to the Centralia library. He said he has no complaints about Timberland other than what he found in the George Carlin tape. Mr. Scott stated that his son brought the tape home from the library and was playing it. He said his son decided that his parents would not approve of the tape and Mr. Scott and his wife listened to the tape and found words that they felt should not be available for children to hear. Mr. Scott said that as far as he is concerned, the George Carlin tape might be O.K. to listen to if it were not for the foul words used on the tape. He said he is not against joking and clean humor but when it comes to using foul words, he thinks this particular tape should not be available and George Carlin should be told that his language is not acceptable.

Mr. Law asked if The Reverend Mr. Scott has received copies of Timberland's policies with regard to materials selection. Mrs. Morrison stated that this complaint did not come through the usual channels and she has not corresponded with Mr. Scott. Mr. Law said he thinks that it would be helpful if Mr. Scott has an understanding of the Board's policies. He said that the Board has long-standing policies that have been in effect for some time and Mr. Law requested that Mr. Scott receive copies of these policies. Mrs. Voegel stated that Timberland is guided by the Library Bill of Rights, Freedom to View Statement and Freedom to Read Statement when dealing with complaints such as Mr. Scott's. She presented copies of these documents, along with Timberland's Book Selection Policy, to Mr. Scott.

Mr. Parsons said that normally a person who has a complaint such as this would receive copies of these documents in advance. He said that he thinks it would have been helpful to Mr. Scott to have seen these ahead of time so he could see what Timberland's policies are in ordering materials and what is made accessible to the public.

Mrs. Voegel stated that it has been this Board's policy, and one which the Board thinks is very important, that it not ban books, tapes or other library materials that citizens protest against. She said this would be a very subjective value judgment and what may seem objectionable to Mr. Scott might not be objectionable to another person. On the other hand, Mrs. Voegel said that what Mr. Scott might deem to be very important to have in the library might be found to be objectionable by someone else. She said that the Board would

6B

guard Mr. Scott's right to have something in the library as well as someone else's right. Mrs. Voege said she admires Mr. Scott for taking an interest and caring about what his son is hearing and reading. She stated that the Board feels that this is where guidance belongs, with the parents. Mrs. Voege said that when children bring home something objectionable to parents, this is a good opportunity for the parents to let their children know why the parents feel it is objectionable. On this basis, Mrs. Voege said that she thinks this Board probably will not see fit to remove this tape from Timberland's collection.

Mr. Scott said that he realizes that he may not be able to change the library but he said he cannot accept the kind of language that is on this tape for his son. He said he would not allow it in his home to be used by anyone else. Mr. Scott said that the Bible says that people should warn the wicked of their wicked ways and he thinks that is what the library should do. He said there is nothing wrong with the tape other than the four-letter words.

Mr. Law stated that there is a negative and a positive side to the whole book selection process. He said that Timberland's selections in terms of what Timberland purchases and distributes are based on what Timberland is trying to do to respond to the diversified interests of the community. Mr. Law said that any comments or suggestions that Mr. Scott might have of what the library should make available would be valuable and he thinks it is safe to say that Timberland considers suggestions from all of the people it serves. He said that while on one hand the Board won't remove materials from the shelves because of a citizen's complaint, he thinks Timberland would welcome suggestions from citizens as to what Timberland's selections should be.

Mrs. Voege thanked Mr. Scott for coming and for his interest. She said it is good to know that there are parents who are monitoring what their children are reading. She said that she hopes Mr. Scott understands the Board's stand that it cannot pull something from the shelves because it offends someone. She stated that the Board feels that guidance of this sort is properly in the hands of the parents. Mrs. Voege said it is good to know that there are parents such as Mr. Scott who are aware and caring.

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Reports

A. Business Manager - Michael Crose

Mr. Crose stated that Board members have received copies of his expenditure report with last week's memo and his revenue report is in the Board's folders. He said he had nothing further to add to these reports.

B. Timberland Attorney - Herbert H. Fuller

Mr. Fuller had no report.

C. Library Director - Louise E. Morrison

Mrs. Morrison announced that Mary Ann Shaffer will be the new

3C Supervisor-Personnel Administration beginning officially on February 1. She said there were several good candidates for the position.

Mrs. Morrison reported that Timberland will co-sponsor a computer fair at the Tumwater High School Performing Arts Center either the Saturday before or the Saturday after National Library Week, April 16 or April 23. She said she felt free to commit Timberland to this since there will be no cost involved and very little effort on Timberland's part. She stated that the Olympia Friends will also be co-sponsoring this event along with the Tumwater School District.

Mrs. Morrison further reported that there is in the works in the legislature a draft bill which is a rewrite of last session's reforestation tax bill. She said this is the same bill which was killed in committee last session. Mrs. Morrison stated that reforestation lands are taxed at a low rate and when the timber is sold the tax is quite high. Right now, Mrs. Morrison said, a lot of timber is being sold and there are some timber companies which would like to reverse the trend and get this put on the regular timber roll so that the tax would be lower. She said this would take revenue away from local governments.

Mrs. Morrison said that it is very possible that she may be asked to serve as consultant for a new island library district. She said she would use vacation time if asked to do this but wanted the Board to be aware. Mrs. Morrison also asked Mrs. Harris if she would be willing to meet with brand new board members in San Juan County who could benefit from her advice and counsel.

D. Board Committees

(1) Ocean Park (Preliminary) - Paul Polillo

Mr. Polillo distributed information on the members of the committee and history of the Ocean Park library. He said that the committee met on December 21 and the minutes of that meeting are also included. Mr. Polillo said the committee is holding off right now until after the school levy vote on February 8. He said the school district has had a lot of financial problems and he does not feel the committee can do much until it receives some commitment from the school district. Mrs. Morrison stated that she has not talked with the Superintendent, Dr. Stara, since this is a very volatile situation right now. Mr. Polillo said the school district has hired a firm to study its finances and school buildings. He said if the school levy passes, it will definitely help. Mr. Polillo said committee members have checked on some buildings and sites in the area and there are definitely no buildings available right now. He recommended that the committee wait until after the school levy election.

(2) South Mason (Preliminary) - Alice Harris

Mrs. Harris reported that the South Mason committee has met once. She said the members of the committee besides herself are Dory Whitmarsh, Patsy Humphres, Chapple Langemack and Sally Loken. Mrs. Harris reported that Dory Whitmarsh has done some preliminary work for the committee by checking with a realtor about possible pieces of

3D(2) property in the Shelton area, but the committee did not see anything that looked promising. She said that everything is expensive or not in a good area. Mrs. Harris said the committee felt that the area where the library is now located is best, but the fact is that the library as it now stands is too small for the service it is providing. She said the South Mason library building will be 10 years old when the lease is up next year. She said the committee decided that the first thing it needs to do is decide if the district should keep the same building and enlarge it. Mrs. Harris said that one problem with the present site is that there is not enough parking. She stated that the lease for this building is \$800 a month and she is sure that this will go up if the lease is renegotiated even for the present building. Mrs. Fourre suggested that now might be a good time to have a building built to Timberland's specifications for lease. Mrs. Harris said she hopes to have more findings and a recommendation by the next Board meeting.

Mr. Law said that he feels a little uncomfortable with what he perceives as a general instability within the system relative to facilities. He said he wonders if consideration should not be given to modular units. Mr. Law said it seems to him there would be a distinct advantage to either rent or purchase modular units that could be moved from one place to another. Mrs. Harris agreed that this is something the committees could be looking into as a possibility.

4 Correspondence

A. 12/20/82 letter from Lewis County Parks and Recreation

Mrs. Voege read the letter as follows:

"Just a note of appreciation in regards to the fine film department of the Centralia Timberland Library. Just recently, Lewis County Parks and Recreation completed a series of youth Christmas Programs encompassing 15 elementary schools including Adna, Boistfort, PeEll, Napavine, Winlock, Onalaska, Toledo, Vader, Evaline, Mossyrock, Morton, Mineral, Glenoma, Randle, and Packwood.

"Over 700 different youths from the above schools, viewed two outstanding films supplied by the Timberland Library, helping to make the programs an important and enjoyable part of these youngsters' Christmas season.

"I feel that our two organizations compliment each other when we are able to cooperate to provide our respective services to the general citizenry.

"I hope that 1983 can bring further cooperation between our organizations and others. Thanks again!"

B. 1/6/83 letter from Robert C. Godsey re Centralia

Mrs. Voege stated that Mr. Godsey was at one time a member of the Centralia Library Board, is a library supporter and recently attended the special Board meeting on January 14. She said that Mr. Godsey

4B wrote this letter in which he hopes that the Centralia Commissioners and the TRL Board will work hard to compromise and continue library service in Centralia.

C. Undated letter from Bruce W. Hess re Centralia

Mrs. Voegel stated that Mr. Hess has expressed his concern with his efforts to get a book and certain services at the Centralia Library. She said that Mrs. Osterby is aware of this.

5 Unfinished Business

A. Contract with the City of Centralia

Mrs. Voegel stated that the Board had signed a contract with the City of Centralia at its special meeting on January 14, 1983. She said that the Commissioners had signed the contract on Tuesday this week. Mrs. Foure asked about the statement in the Daily Chronicle article that Commissioner Jack Gelder said he had seconded Moeller's motion to sign the contract with the understanding that Timberland and Centralia would continue negotiations on maintenance/utility payments. Mrs. Voegel stated that Timberland has no understanding of this with Centralia. Mrs. Haakenson stated that the Commissioners are concerned that discussions continue with TRL. She said that Commissioner Gelder always comes back to maintenance and utilities, but she said the Commissioners' concern is broader with regard to compensation to cities, not just Centralia. She stated that there are no strings attached to this contract. Mr. Polillo stated that perhaps the Board should do some more work along this line since he is sure that it will come up again. Mrs. Foure commented that it is her understanding that the Association of Washington Cities was working with Centralia on this and that they are trying to get some legislation passed.

Mr. Law stated that he has publicly stated several times that he feels Timberland has some obligation to give some kind of reimbursement to cities. Mrs. Foure disagreed and stated that she does not feel Timberland has any obligation. Mr. Law stated that this problem will not go away and there should be a concerted effort made to come up with some fair formula for reimbursement within the next several months. Mrs. Voegel asked Mr. Law if he has had an opportunity to begin looking into this as he had indicated at the December meeting. Mr. Law said he has not because he has been led to believe that there will be some kind of official inquiry in this regard and ongoing over the next several months and he felt it would be inappropriate for him to come forward with something at this time. Mrs. Foure asked what proportion of their budgets cities pay for library service. As she understands it, she said Centralia will only have to pay about one percent of its budget for library service in 1983 which to her does not show much concern for library service for its residents. Mr. Law said that although he is in favor of some form of compensation to the cities, he also has said that Centralia was not one of the cities which deserves much compensation since that building was built with a federal grant. He said that cities vary considerably in the amount of money they are providing for library service and probably Centralia would be at the lower end. He suggested that the

- 5A best way to go about this is to have a committee appointed to come up with some alternatives. He said a committee could come up with different alternatives, advantages of each alternative, and recommendations.

Mrs. Voegel appointed Mr. Law to chair a committee to work on city building support, and asked Mr. Crose to work with him. Mrs. Haakenson said she would like to see the committee formed with direction from Mrs. Voegel as Board Chair to begin to look into this question, and that there not be a deadline for any recommendations. Mrs. Fourre stated that she would like to see this question directed as to what proportion of the cities' budgets go to library service, and based on that how much the city itself thinks of library service for its citizens. Mrs. Haakenson said she thinks what also has to enter into this is how much each city thinks it is entitled to. Mrs. Voegel said that as Board members begin to discuss this, they can see the complexity of the problem. She also appointed Jean Haakenson and Doris Fourre to the committee. She requested that the committee be prepared to report to the Board at the March meeting. Mr. Law said he would like to wait until April since that would allow the committee more time to begin looking at alternatives and do research into what other library districts are doing. Mrs. Voegel suggested that the committee members read through the Contract City Study which was done several years ago which she thinks would be very helpful. Mr. Law requested that the committee members meet briefly after tonight's meeting to compile a beginning list and quickly agree to those things which they think might be important as a starting point.

Mrs. Voegel expressed the Board's and Management Team's appreciation to Mrs. Haakenson and Mr. Parsons for yeoman duty, for keeping the Board and staff apprised of the situation in Centralia and for fielding calls from citizens. She also thanked Marian Osterby and her staff at the Centralia library. Mrs. Harris said she would especially like the Centralia staff to know that she appreciates the difficult time they have gone through. Mrs. Voegel requested that Mrs. Morrison express the Board's thanks in letters. Mrs. Haakenson said that she attended the Centralia Library Board's meeting last night and the board requested that she convey their thanks to the Timberland Board and also their concern to the staff for the trauma the staff experienced during the closure. She said that the Centralia Board wanted to be sure that everyone is aware of how thankful they are that the library has been reopened.

Mr. Parsons commented that he has never before experienced anything with the news media and it was a real education for him to read and hear "exactly what we said."

Mrs. Voegel requested that Mrs. Morrison also send letters to the Centralia Board and Centralia Friends expressing the Board's appreciation for their support and positive efforts.

6 New Business

A. Committee Appointments for Evaluation of Library Director

Mrs. Voegel stated that one of the first things to be done in the new

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procedure for evaluation of the Library Director is to set agreed-upon goals for the Director and the Board. In order to begin the goal-setting process, Mrs. Voegel appointed Larry Parsons to chair a committee. She requested that Mrs. Fourre serve on this committee also and if any other Board members are interested, to let her know. She said Mr. Parsons did attend the workshop on Library Director evaluations and worked on the committee which came up with the procedure which the Board adopted. She requested that Mr. Parsons and Mrs. Fourre work with Mrs. Morrison on this and be prepared to report at the February meeting. Mrs. Voegel said that she does not think this will require much work since the procedure has already been established. Mr. Parsons said that he has reviewed the evaluation document and noted that it states that the Board and Director will develop a checklist of objectives. Also, he said that parameters have been set as to what is expected of the Director and what the Director expects of the Board. Mr. Parsons requested that if anyone has ideas to let him know.

C. Declaration of surplus property and authorization for sale

Mrs. Voegel stated that the Board has received a report from Mr. Crose regarding vehicles. Mr. Crose said that Timberland has four vehicles that he believes have outlived their usefulness--two 1973 Hornet sedans, a delivery van, and a 1962 bookmobile. He said he would like the Board to declare these vehicles surplus and authorize the administration to advertise them for sale by sealed bid. Mr. Crose stated that funds are budgeted for replacing the two sedans and the van. He said the bookmobile would not be replaced. Mr. Polillo asked if the district has much of a problem selling surplus vehicles. Mr. Crose said that it is difficult to predict. Mrs. Osterby said that there is a surplus bookmobile in Lewis County which causes problems because the word "bookmobile" has not been removed. She requested that all identifying marks be removed. Mr. Crose said that the 1962 bookmobile happens to be the funmobile and he recommends that the district repaint this vehicle before sale.

83-4

LARRY PARSONS MOVED THAT THE BOARD DECLARE THE FOUR VEHICLES SURPLUS AND AUTHORIZE THEM FOR SALE AND THAT THE BOOKMOBILE BE REPAINTED BEFORE SALE; PAUL POLILLO SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED.

D. Contract for 1983 with Timberland Attorney, Herbert H. Fuller

Mr. Fuller said that if the Board wishes to discuss this, he would be happy to step out of the room. Mrs. Voegel said that the contract for 1983 is actually the same contract the Board had with Mr. Fuller in 1982. She stated that Mr. Fuller has provided Timberland with invaluable guidance and it is good to know he is there to turn to. Mrs. Voegel said that Mr. Fuller is always present at Board meetings and quick to reply to the Board's requests. She stated that he is also interested in libraries, which is a real bonus.

83-5

ALICE HARRIS MOVED TO EXTEND THE CONTRACT WITH HERBERT H. FULLER FOR LEGAL SERVICES FOR 1983; DORIS FOURRE SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED.

There was no further business and the meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Alice E. Morrison
SECRETARY

Nancy L. Voegel
CHAIR