

Special Meeting
Charleston Township Board
December 18, 2008

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by the Supervisor.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS:

Roll was called and members present were: Bell, Samson, Kramer, and Schug.
Also in attendance were Carol Martin of Friends of the Library, Shirley Kasson and Donna Kowalewski

BUSINESS:

Shirley Kasson explained the proposal to become a District Library and the proposed millage necessary to fund a District Library. She asked if the entire township would be included in the geographic boundaries of the Library District and was told that Charleston Township residents of the Village of Augusta would not be included as they are already a part of the Ross-Augusta District Library. Shirley listed the objections to the District Library Agreement she had heard from the City of Galesburg at their meeting on December 15, 2008 and reported that the City tabled action on the Agreement. Their attorney wanted to confer with the township attorney and the District Library attorney.

Art asked why we need a District Library. Donna responded that a District Library would allow them to be open more hours, have more e- materials, books, magazines, more children's programs, adults' programs, and website databases like Ancestry.com.

Brenda asked the number of township residents that use the library now and was told 23%. Brenda explained that 1.5 mills would generate \$127,500 from the township. The same millage would generate \$43,317 for the City of Galesburg.

The township board objected to the inequality in funding, questioned whether it was worthwhile to pursue a District Library millage at this time given the state of the economy, the mood of the taxpayers and the fact that there will be requests for additional millage from county public transportation and county public safety. Donna responded that when the economy slows down residents use the library more for help in job hunting, and free entertainment. The board declined to take any action at this time on the District Library Agreement.

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

Samson/Schug moved to adjourn at 4:17 p.m. CARRIED

Linda Kramer, Clerk