

Special Meeting
Charleston Township Board
March 24, 2011

CALL TO ORDER:

The Supervisor called the joint meeting of the Charleston Township Board and the City of Galesburg Council to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS:

Roll was called and members present were: Bell, Schug, Samson, Balkema and Kramer. The City of Galesburg Clerk called roll for the Council. All were present (Sheila Garrett, Mike Van Ness, Jan Yingling, Karen Bresson, Clerk, and Ken Kissinger) except Shane Bresson and Rick Van Cleave. Also in attendance: Donna Kowalewski, Kim Murray, Shirley and Chuck Kasson, Sue Jefferson and Mike Garrett.

BUSINESS:

Shirley Kasson, representing the Galesburg Memorial Library, gave a brief history of the quest for a District Library. She pointed out that the process has been ongoing since March of 2008 and she hoped that the District Library Agreement could be finalized so that the question of a District Library could be put to the voters.

Supervisor Bell explained the position of the Township. He said that it was unacceptable to expect the residents of Charleston Township to contribute 75% of the cost of the District Library which would be the result if 1.5 mil were to be assessed on both municipalities based on the State Equalized Value (SEV) of the respective jurisdictions. He said that 1 mil would be an amount he could support and unless the money issue was resolved, there was no point in working on the agreement.

Sheila Garrett, City of Galesburg Mayor, agreed that money was the issue and that splitting the cost of the District Library was the way to go. She noted, however, that Galesburg would be required to assess possibly 3 mils to match Charleston's one mil and she did not think that Galesburg residents would approve an increase in taxation of that amount given the state of the economy. The members of the Council who spoke agreed with her assessment.

Kramer/Schug moved to undertake a township survey with input on the benefits of the District Library from the Library Board to see how much support there was in the community for the idea. After some discussion and reluctance on the part of the Library Board to participate, the motion failed 1 to 4.

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

There being nothing else to discuss, Balkema/Samson moved to adjourn at 8:28 p.m. CARRIED

Linda Kramer, Clerk

