**Special Library Board Meeting**

**Frank Bertetti Benld Public Library**

**Thursday, November 21, 2019**

President Mary Ann Scopel called the meeting to order at 10:30 am on Thursday, November 21, 2019.

Roll Call: Present – Trustees Vickie Laughlin, Norm Emmons, Cindy Scopel, Denise Cadmus, Dona Hubert, Mary Ann Scopel, Jeri Bayse and Librarian Mary Newman. Absent – Beverly Gibson and Don Chapman. Also in attendance were Mayor Jim Kelly, City Council Liaison Jim Tilashalski and Mike Kelly Illinois Valley Executive Director.

President Scopel welcomed Mike Kelly to the meeting. Mr. Kelly informed the board that the current play area for the Head Start Center does not meet DCFS requirements. They are required to have so many feet of play space per classroom size. He could not find any records of agreement between the City and Illinois Valley. The retaining wall on the east side has a gap that could trap a child. A new fence line will fix this problem. They also will need to increase the area by 4 feet on the north side to make up the lost footage. The current four (4) foot fence will be replaced with a five (5) foot fence. Mr. Kelly is proposing a written agreement with the City/Library and Illinois Valley which will include who is responsible for insurance and a term limit. Jim Tilashalski stated that the library board will have the final say in the changes that are made.

A question was asked as to why the play area was not on the east side of the building. Mike Kelly told the board that he will look into it to see if there was enough space. One issue would be the cost of moving the current area would be approximately $60,000 vs. $3,000 to replace the current fence.

Jeri Bayse questioned if the class sizes change will there be a need for additional space. The board was informed that the center would not go over the number of students currently housed.

Cindy Saracco asked who was responsible for insurance if a child was injured and would the board members be responsible. Mayor Jim Kelly stated that the city has insurance and that all of the library board members are covered under the cities Directors Liability Insurance. Mike Kelly told the board that during the hours that Head Start students are using the playground their insurance would cover any incidents. They will send a copy of the insurance to the city. If something happens not associated with Illinois Valley it will be the city’s responsibility.

Mike Kelly told the board that as soon as they received approval work would begin.

Norm Emmons suggested that the agreement include that the issue of the playground would be addressed again in five (5) years.

Meeting adjourned at 11:25 am.

Submitted by

Mary Newman, Librarian