

Guest Editorial
Marquette Charter Township Supports
Peter White Public Library Services
by
Dennis R. Liimatta, Township Supervisor

I would like to respond to a recent misrepresentation of fact media campaign by the Peter White Public Library leadership that has caused a totally unnecessary negative ripple throughout the community. We have no understanding of why the PWPL leadership chose this course to create public pressure; but their representation of Township Board action was not accurate. Let me be clear; there has been absolutely no discussion by this board regarding non-participation with PWPL at any time.

The Township Board is concerned with this broad publication of misinformation because it is false information; and is harmful to the reputation of the elected Township Board members, and their appointees to the PWPL Advisory Board. The fact is that Marquette Charter Township has a long history of being a very large financial supporter of the library - \$191,527.00 for 2012 alone. That is quite exceptional for a community of only 3,905 residents. Every property owner and business within Marquette Charter Township contributes extra tax millage beyond the base property tax millage (.9061 mil for 2011) that is distributed to the PWPL to support library services available to Township residents.

For the record, at their March 20th regular meeting the Marquette Township Board received the library millage request for 1.0 mil to be levied for five years; engaged in brief discussion with Library Director Pamela Christensen; and moved for the millage request to be placed on a future meeting agenda for full discussion and consideration – which is the Board normal practice for such requests. The Board was not prepared to approve ballot language at that meeting, and in fact, only had the agenda item because we received a notice the week before from PWPL stating they were coming to our meeting to present a request for millage renewal. Ballot request language for the August primary election is not due to be submitted until May 15th; and for the November general election is not due to be submitted until August 14th. Director Christensen was informed that the Board were “huge supporters of PWPL and will continue to be so.” The determination regarding which election ballot that the PWPL millage question will appear on rests with the Township Board, and again we informed Director Christensen that we would take action before the deadline. The claim made by PWPL that the Board is considering developing an alternative library in the Township Facility building has no basis in fact, and has never been discussed at any level, so I can’t even develop a response to this allegation.

The Township Board thanks those residents that brought this misrepresentation to our attention; and afforded us an opportunity to promptly respond to and correct the information that was published. Unfortunately, misinformation dissemination has become a very common practice for those with agendas; and local elected and appointed officials are often the target. For those who would prefer to deal in fact, we

would be happy to make a copy of the recorded meeting available at the Marquette Township Office.