

Date: December 15, 2009

To: Charter Township of Marquette Township Board Members
Dennis Liimata, Supervisor
Randy Ritari, Clerk
Ernest Johnson, Treasurer
and Trustees Lyn Durant, Pete LaRue, Danny Pompo and Dianna Truscott

From: John Markes

Subject: Library Service Contract

PWPL Library Director Pamela Christensen, in her October 7, 2009 library issue presentation to the Township Board, provided the position held by the City of Marquette Commission, and their appointed PWPL Trustees, that the blanket one mill assessment requirement for township library service is in their view justified. What follows are additional facts that should be considered.

(1) The Township Library Tax yield for 2009 was \$160,533. With adoption of the proposed reduction of library millage to .85 the library will not incur any adverse impact. The library, due to township growth in property value, will actually receive a sum greater than \$160,533.

(2) The adoption of the proposed reduction of library millage to .85 will aid Marquette Township residents, and clearly aid the township business community. With no reduction to the 2009 total revenue received by the library, our business community will have one more good reason for having chosen to locate in our community. Other prospective business interests will make note of our positive protective effort.

(3) The proposed .85 library millage level, if adopted, saves Marquette Township residents and our business community .0611 in millage. That saved millage could arguably be reduced from a proposed renewal tax, or a township effort to improve roads, create walkways, trails, parks, etc. The saved millage should remain in Marquette Township to enhance our community. That saved millage is a considerable sum, generating over \$30,000 in the first year. The amount will grow each year with continued township growth in property value. I can appreciate the PWPL Director wanting to tap such growth via a blanket library service tax, but such action needs to be properly presented to Marquette Township residents.

(4) The PWPL is a City of Marquette operation. The PWPL is controlled by trustees appointed by the City of Marquette Commission. One must be a resident of the city to be appointed. Irregardless of any millage paying township financial contribution, under present conditions, the PWPL will always remain a City of Marquette facility. That distinction makes any comparison of city resident payment for their library and library service, and township resident payment for library service alone, an unreasonable comparison. It should also be of interest to even the most casual observer of the library issue that the millage paying townships are now providing over 25% of the library's income minus state aid, grants, etc.. The Marquette Township present library tax yield of \$160,533 represents 40% of the total library funds of \$400,000 received from the millage paying townships.

(4) The PWPL Trustees requirement that all participating millage paying townships must pay one mill is the inequity that caused the need to produce the spread sheet dated June 3, 2009. That report, using millage yield divided by the number of library card holders in the five millage paying townships, shows Marquette Township as the only one paying more than the real cost of such service. The other four townships show a loss to the library of \$17.20 to \$43.28 per card holder. That fact is revealed on the spreadsheet report presented to the township June 16, 2009.

When one uses the millage yield divided by population, the Marquette Township average payment for library service is about \$49.00. The other four townships payment for the same service shows up at \$13.00 to a top of \$24.00.

That is a picture of the cost of library service being paid presently when given a fair review.

(5) The library director justifies the required assessment of a blanket one mill to all participating millage paying townships because that is the same way taxes are spread for the State of Michigan, the County of Marquette, and all school districts. What is conveniently ignored is the fact that in each of those cases Marquette Township residents get to elect individuals responsible for taxes assessed. Marquette Township residents have no say in who gets to appoint PWPL Trustees, and no say in establishing a fair and equitable cost of library service to townships. In effect what we have is taxation without representation.

Marquette Township has only one option open to influence establishing a more appropriate PWPL library cost of service fee. That is to only agree to put our new contract on the ballot in 2010 at a lower fee, .85 , one that fairly provides the PWPL with a sum greater than that provided in the year 2009.

Should the considerable influence of PWPL cause making a reduction of the new contract fee difficult perhaps the determination would best be made by the voters of Marquette Township. The township board could place the two millage levels on the 2010 ballot for voters to select their preference.

NOTE: For a complete history of the effort to end the unfair blanket one mill library assessment assessed on the residents of the Charter Township of Marquette turn to web site:

- (1) [HTTP: // www. Marquettetownship.org/](http://www.Marquettetownship.org/)
- (2) Click on Documents
- (3) Click on Library Advisory Council
- (4) Click on PWPL-TAC Report (June 9, 2009)
- (5) Click on Library Service Contract Report (Oct. 26, 2009)

The information that follows is found on the City of Marquette Website <http://www.mqtcty.org/>

- (1) The City of Marquette Arts and Culture Advisory Committee serves as a conduit between the people of the City of Marquette and their government.
- (2) The department was relocated to the lower level of the PWPL in 2000.
- (3) The Arts Center, in addition to providing gallery and studio space, averages 263 visitors a day.

Note: The above comments and the data found on the following four pages on Arts and Culture policies and fees support the position taken that the PWPL is, and will remain, a City of Marquette facility. The Charter Township of Marquette has no say in who is housed in their facility.

(See item (4), page one, of this report dated ~~November 5,~~ 2009)

DEC. 15,
