

ELK RAPIDS DISTRICT LIBRARY (ERDL) UPDATE

November 9, 2020

- The Village of Elk Rapids (Bill Cooper & Jim Janisse) requested a meeting with Elk Rapids Township and Milton Township to discuss the District Library Agreement. Our response, along with Elk Rapids Township, is for the Village to submit in writing what they are requesting and why? We will then review their request and respond accordingly.
- Lease Agreement – Dick Hults, Elk Rapids Township Trustee and Library Board Member has been trying to get draft lease agreement discussions with the Village Manager and President for the past year or so. The Village has not been cooperative. It was recently discovered, by Dick Hults, that the Village adopted an Ordinance January 2019, reconfirming an older ordinance that the Village will retain complete control of the Island House. The Village never informed us of this, so we feel very deceived. Why would the ERDL want to raise 3-5 Million dollars and make improvements on a building we don't own or have any say on?
- Audit Request - At the October Library board meeting, Tom Stephenson made a request to seek an audit of Library funds. Because we just had an audit of the library, I felt it was a waste of money, but it was explained that it would encompass the Friends group and Capital Campaign. I agreed to an audit, only for the purpose of public perception, but it will only confirm what's already been done, by way of deposits. Now the request is for a Financial Review, which costs less than an audit, and provides only limited assurance and is substantially narrower in scope compared to an audit. The larger and ongoing question has always been: Verbal reports of 1.8 – 1.9 Million in funds raised vs. actual balances in the bank.
- Elk Rapids Township Meeting October 13, 2020 – The Village liaison, Trisha Perlman asked the following question and made the following comment at the ER Twp. meeting;
 - “Has anyone reached out to the Village President, Jim Janisse, to discuss his appointee; Karen Simpson's behavior”?
 - “It was extremely appropriate for Milton to hold their appointee accountable”

The above comments were harshly criticized at the November 2, 2020 Village Council meeting for not being aligned with the Village's stance.
- The ERDL has received a FOIA request from the Traverse City Record Eagle requesting the following:
 - Any communications on job performance of the Library Director via email, letter or hand-delivered note between trustees.
 - Any communications on job performance of the Library Director from any member of the Library Board Personnel committee to the Library Director or one another.
 - Copies of all communications sent to the Library Board from a capital campaign donor or a memorial fund donor and discussed at either the July 202 library board meeting or the August 2020 library board meeting or both, and copies of any and all responses sent to the letter writer(s) from any and all trustees or library employee.
- Ongoing communications to stress the importance for the board to adhere to all Labor Laws, board procedures & policies. Recent issues relating to personnel and legal bills.