

ELK RAPIDS DISTRICT LIBRARY (ERDL) REPORT

February 8, 2021

- ERDL Operating Agreement – There has been no further communications from the Village regarding their request in October 2020 for changes to the District Operating Agreement. Lon Bargy called the Village for status of their request but did not receive a call back, therefore, it is assumed this topic is no longer being pursued by the Village.
- ERDL Lease Agreement – The Village met with a member of the ERDL Building Committee to draft some changes to the current agreement. The ERDL Building Committee has reviewed the suggested changes and will be following up with many questions this week. Village of Elk Rapids Ordinance #492 that was passed January 2019 will need to be addressed due to being in opposition to any lease agreement that relinquishes their full control of the Island House to ERDL.
- Legal Expenses – A motion was passed in January 2021 adopting a policy to eliminate unnecessary and unapproved legal expenses. This policy requires a representative from each of the partnering municipality to give authorization before contacting legal and incurring any legal expenses. Motion passed 6-1
- Audit of Capital Campaign – Still pending.
- Media Coverage – The myriad of issues/problems that have plagued the ERDL Board for several years have received much media coverage. While this media coverage has brought needed attention and awareness to the public, I am hopeful that corrective actions are pending along with redirecting the focus on library board business.
- Library Director and staff – It is assumed that all board members will fully support the Library Director and staff going forward. A 5% COFA was approved for the Director and staff. Motion passed 5-2
- Officer appointments – February 2021 is when officers are appointed. Due to all the past controversy and problems, it is my hope the board will give serious consideration of who is appointed to these positions. It's imperative for a successful board to appoint those that possess good leadership and management experience. These positions should be held with equal representation of all 3 municipalities.
- Going Forward - Resetting the ERDL board priorities to make the best decisions for the library is the goal. Bringing public awareness to problems in order to offset the lack of transparency that the library board has fallen into thinking is a normal functioning board is crucial.
- Library Millage - Since the inception of Milton Township's Library Millage our taxpayers have contributed over \$2,250,000.00 to the operations of the library. This millage is in perpetuity. While we have no direct authority over the ERDL board, we do have a responsibility to provide some oversight to make sure our taxpayer dollars are spent wisely and appropriately that benefits all.