

Special Meeting of the Board of Directors
Traverse Area Historical Society
November 6, 2016

Attendees: Stephen Siciliano, Fred Anderson, Larry Hains, Virginia LeClaire, Sharon Jennings, Julie Schopieray, Peg Siciliano, Jim Warner

This special board meeting was called by President Siciliano to formulate a response to the newly discovered utility bills owed the city and to develop a plan for vacating the Carnegie Building entirely, should the board decide to take this action.

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 PM.

Outstanding City Utility Bills

When attempting to pay our rent bill to the city, Mr. Hains was made aware that there were two utility bills from September 2014 that were in collections with the city: a water bill for \$178.00 and an electric bill for \$2280.68. Mr. Siciliano discussed these bills with Penny Hill and Bill Twietmeyer on October 31, 2016. It was clear that these bills had been sent in 2014 and went unpaid. He was informed by the city officials that they had been in “soft” collections, so this board had not received any statements since it was first elected. The city expected that the bills to be paid; the organization could extend the payments over two years without interest. After discussion, Mr. Hains moved and Ms. Schopieray seconded that we pay both bills in their entirety immediately. Additional discussion ensued and a vote was finally taken.

Aye: Hains, LeClaire, Jennings, Schopieray

Nay: Mr. Siciliano, Warner, Anderson, Ms. Siciliano

The motion, thus, failed.

Further discussion ensued. Mr. Anderson then moved that we pay off the water bill entirely, pay down the electric bill to \$1200, and begin monthly payments of \$100 to the city to pay it off, with the option to paying it off more rapidly should our financial situation improve. Peg S. seconded this motion and a vote was taken.

Aye: Hains, Warner, Mr. Siciliano, Anderson, Ms. Siciliano

Nay: Schopieray

Abstention: LeClaire

Mr. Siciliano also reported that Ms. Hill and Mr. Twietmeyer were concerned that we not liquidate any of the furniture owned by the city as we downsize our presence in the Carnegie Building. Mr. Siciliano was provided with a 1996 list by Ms. Hill of city property located within the Carnegie. Mr. Hains purchased the desks and chairs in the White Office at the Annual Meeting in October. Peg S. assured the board that all of the furniture now owned by Mr. Hains was the property of the Historical Society and not the city, as they had been obtained either through donation or purchase during her presence as Archivist.

Folding chairs, previously purchased by Mr. Warner and donated to the Music House Museum, are being returned to the building by the Music House. Other items had apparently been purchased by former board members Steve Harold and Stef Staley.

Vacating the Carnegie Building

The next topic of discussion revolved around the possibility of vacating the Carnegie Building entirely and the items still present in the White Office that need to be considered, including computers, a non functioning copier, other electronic items, shelves of books, Hoffmaster paintings, and many miscellaneous items. If the decision is to vacate the Carnegie, all of the materials presently retained needed to be dealt with in a timely manner once the city is given a 30 day notice. Peg S. has not removed the desk and credenza she was awarded and is hoping to move them at the same time that Mr. Hains removes the desks and chairs purchased at the Annual Meeting. Mr. Hains stated that he is comfortable retaining the items placed in his garage to date as he is able to get his car and truck into the remaining space. Peg S. voiced concerns about the large wooden case that houses aerial photographs of the area; TADL does not want this item as they feel the photographs are of poor quality. Peg also mentioned other archival materials the library does not want. Some board members expressed the desire to maintain a small office at some location, with a computer, the phone, and a copy machine, either at the Carnegie or elsewhere. After discussion, Peg S. moved and Mr. Hains seconded a motion to maintain a small office space for this organization and to retain some archival and research materials. All board members voted “aye” with the exception of Ms. Schopieray who voted “nay.”

The next topic of discussion centered around finding a location for this small office; there were no suggestions forthcoming where the rent would be less than what we are now paying at the Carnegie. Mr. Siciliano stated that he and Peg would be willing to provide a room in their home which can be accessed from the outside where this could be located; his address would then be used as the location of the organization for official filing with the state and federal governments. This was considered a very generous offer and seemed to be an ideal solution to the problem for now. It would also satisfy Article I, Section 2 of the bylaws.

After further discussion, Mr. Siciliano suggested that we plan to vacate the Carnegie premises by December 31, 2016 and that all materials be moved out of the White Office no later than December 7 – 10. He noted that at the next regular board meeting on November 15, 2016 the board can act to authorize him to notify the city on November 30, 2016 providing a 30 days notice.

The meeting adjourned at 3:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia LeClaire, Secretary