A special meeting of the Adams Township Board of Supervisors with the Board of Directors of the Mars Area Public Library was held on, June 29, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. at the Mars Area Public Library, 107 Grand Avenue, Mars, PA for the purpose of discussions of a library building.

Present at the meeting were Supervisors Donald C. Aiken, Linda E. Lees, Edward L. Vogel, and Thomas L. Franceschina; Township Secretary Janet Lubbert; Members of the Board of Directors of the library Nancy Penney, Janice Schmitt, Carmelina Vargo, Marcy Bogdanich and Dan Bogdanich; and Librarian Vince Gadrix.

Chairman Aiken called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dennis McCandless and Amy Werner were present and commented during the course of the meeting. Michelle Obid was present but did not comment.

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PRESENTATION BY LIBRARY

Mr. Gadrix introduced Ted Vedock from Hammel Associates Architects and reviewed how the study of a library building has progressed to this point. The library has a five-year plan which will be from 2015 to 2020. It was a long-term facility study to make sure the library is meeting the needs of the community. The library applied for a grant with Adams Township and hired Hammel Associates. They did an evaluation of the existing building to determine options and the meeting tonight is to present the option of relocating to the Adams Township park.

Mr. Vedock gave a slide presentation of the procedure for the review that was done with Richard Bowra, a library consultant. He reviewed statistics and deficiencies and showed plans for a new building which would increase the existing space by 25% to 12,738 square feet. The 10,600 square feet of the existing building does not include unused space. Some of the current space is not being used efficiently.

Mr. Vedock reviewed the existing site in Mars Borough, listed the advantages and disadvantages and compared it to the Adams Township site. He discussed possible expansion at the existing site. There are easement and parking issues with a horizontal expansion. He discussed the challenges of expanding to a second floor and operating during construction. He said staffing two stories is an issue and they would need to install an elevator.

Mr. Vedock reviewed the Adams Township site with the advantages of the location, parking and few physical constraints. He said there would be a campus environment with other services and it's centrally located. The challenges are the increased capital cost and moving it away from Mars Borough patrons.

Mr. McCandless said the location is not centrally located, he believes it will inconvenient for people because of the road, and the only services at that site are the park and voting. He said the borough has more services such as the post office and stores, and the road from Route 228 to the park is not in good condition and almost impassable in the winter. The borough streets and sidewalks are maintained in the winter. He said he understands the issues with the existing library but a central location for the population would not be in Adams Township park.

Mr. Vedock showed the design of the building and reviewed how it was done. He showed the design concepts which he said had been fairly well received by the library and would be refined more. There is room for expansion and they can use existing parking. There would be an amphitheater with plantings between the building and the parking lot. He said they would use design features from the municipal building with the glass wall facing the parking lot and space for a café and a meeting room which can be divided into smaller rooms.

Mr. Vogel asked how big the meeting room is and how many people it would seat. Mr. Vedock said it is 44 feet by 46 feet with room for 225 people seated lecture style. Mr. Vogel said he didn't think that many people could fit into that room standing up and it would be crowded. He also asked the dimensions of the building since they're not on the drawing. Mr. Vedock added up the spaces on the drawing and said it's roughly 90 feet by 120 feet.

Mr. Franceschina said if you remove the 2,024 feet for the multipurpose area from the new building to be used for groups other than the library it's the same square feet as the library currently has for library uses so the expansion is not really for the library. Mr. Vedock said the room would also be used for library programs, and

Mr. Franceschina said the additional space is not for books or computers. Mr. Vedock said libraries are trending toward providing more than books and computers and Mr. Franceschina is correct about the space for books.

Mr. Franceschina asked if Woodland Valley Church is available for sale and Ms. Penney said it will be. Mr. Franceschina asked if it would be feasible for the library to buy and use that building, and Mr. Vedock said they haven't looked at that. Mr. Franceschina asked about buying the house next door. Ms. Schmitt said there is an easement that runs across the parking lot. Ms. Werner said the owner of the house is not interested in selling at this point and asked if anyone has talked to Cranberry Township about how they did their expansion and remodeling. She also asked if the township is buying property and building the new building. She noted the township is already building a new fire department and asked what is happening to the building in Mars. Mr. Franceschina said the state requires the township to provide services and the proceeds of sale of the existing building will go into the new one. He thinks the library should look at buying the Woodland Valley property. Mr. Vedock said they can look at other sites and do studies

Ms. Vargo said she thinks the community needs the new library. The Adams Township park includes baseball and a trail but not other facilities. She noted her children play basketball and her daughter and friends don't have any place to go study. She also said people in Treesdale go the library in Pine Township and indicated they think it's a better library than the one in Mars.

Mr. McCandless said part of the Woodland Valley building is 100 years old and it hasn't been rehabilitated for a while. It's also three stories.

They reviewed the plans for the new building, and the cost will be $200 to $300 per square feet. They discussed the possibility of the township donating the land to the library, how that would be done and population growth in the area. The librarian was asked if they have the funds to build the library and where they want to go. Mr. Gadrix did not have a firm answer, and Mr. Aiken said they need to decide what they are doing, get figures and come back to the township with answers.

Ms. Werner asked if anyone had thought of doing a referendum.

Mr. Gadrix said a survey had been done, and Mr. McCandless said the results of the survey need to be made available.

Ms. Bogdanich said the buildings in Hampton Township and Pine Township are very viable and serve everyone. She thinks this area has a lot to offer everyone and the park could be used for activities to bring the community together. She also said people demand more now.

Mr. Franceschina asked how much Middlesex Township gives and was told they give $5,000 a year. Mr. Franceschina asked if they are willing to pay more as their usage grows and Adams Township slows down. Mr. Gadrix said he will talk to them about usage and growth.

There was a discussion of outreach programs, traveling libraries, the older population and the need to reach everyone in the community.

Mr. Vogel said he doesn't like the roof on the design of the new building and wants to see a second story. He wants it to look more like the township building, and Mr. Franceschina agreed about a second story.

Mr. Aiken concluded the meeting by saying they can meet again when the library has some more information available and knows what they want to do.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m. by common consent.

Janet L. Lubbert

Janet L. Lubbert, Secretary