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Sent: Friday, December 9, 2016 5:21 PM

To: Mayor

Subject: Library Project - A1

Dear Mr. Mayor,

I attended the recent Trustees meeting about the library. There were many village residents who spoke (including myself). It seemed to me that the speakers fell into one of two groups. One group was highly supportive of the library project, as it exists today (at the cost of at least \$18 million), for emotional reasons, such as they love the library, want to have it as a place to socialize with friends, want more space for their kids, etc. The other group were much more concerned about the details of the financial elements of the plan.

As everyone knows, ‘the devil is in the details’ and there are a lot of details in this plan that really should be articulated and shared before any commitment to this project in its’ current form is made. It is much important to get it right than to get it fast.

Without question, the deferred maintenance (such as the roof) and upgrades necessary to make the library ADA compliant are urgent and very important. Those items will need to be addressed soon regardless of the outcome of the discussion about the current plan. The village budgeted about \$5 million to cover those costs.

Here are a few ‘devil in the details’ that I thought of:

The current plan consists of \$10 million dollars in village funds (bonds) and at least \$8 million

dollars of private funding. To date, approximately \$2 million of private funding has been raised. Once the village has committed to the bond financing, if I understand it correctly, the village is not able to 'change their mind' and back out of the bonds. For that reason, it is absolutely essential that all \$8 million of private funding is irrevocably committed to before any village commitment. Historically, it has been very difficult to privately raise significant funds for municipal projects (an example would be the Ambulance Corps), and if those funding efforts are not fully successful, if the bonds have been committed to, the village will end up financing the shortfall.

Our current library will be closed for at least 2 years during the renovation. A small satellite library will be available at a village owned building at Supply Field. The village feels that there will not be a parking problem there because the satellite library will not be open while athletic events are taking place on the field. I drive past the field quite frequently and have noticed that there are athletic events taking place at the field on every weekend throughout the spring, summer, and fall. That means that the satellite library will not be open on weekends for at least 2 years during the spring, summer, and fall.

We are not done with the revaluation issues. We don't know what the final implications of the revaluation will be, nor do we know the time frame to resolve the whole 'mess', including a possible law suit against the village. There may be significant tax implications for some village residents and adding an additional assessment to their already increased taxes (even a small one) probably will not be viewed favorably.

My husband and I are senior citizens. Like many of our peers, we are quite computer literate, have computers in our homes, have printers in our homes, etc. I do not know of a single friend or colleague of mine who is over 60 who would have any need of those services at the library. Our generation and the ones that follow us will be unlikely to need computer services at the library. We will not need of any of the traditional senior citizen services.

Several days after the meeting, I carefully reviewed the very comprehensive Report of the Scarsdale Forum on the Option A-1 Renovation Plan. I think the Forum's resolutions included in the Report are well thought through, reasonable, and should be seriously considered.

Ultimately, it doesn't matter if a lot of people like the plan or don't like the plan. What matters most is whether the project in its current iteration is fiscally solid, and that committing to it at this time is a wise decision.

I thank you for your time and work for the benefit of the Village.

Sincerely,

Carrie Moskowitz

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