

LOWELL LIBRARY LINES

A PUBLICATION OF THE LOWELL PUBLIC LIBRARY

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FATE OF NEW LIBRARY IN HANDS OF TAX BOARD

We're holding our breath! Will there soon be a new Lowell Public Library to serve the needs of 14,500 residents of the library service district?

After conducting a hearing on Friday, July 12 concerning the proposed new building, the field hearing officers from the State Board of Tax Commissioners took the evidence they had accumulated and their recommendations to the Tax Board. The three Tax Commissioners will make the final decision.

The Tax Commissioners had earlier ruled in favor of the new library, but a remonstrance filed by local taxpayers meant that a field hearing had to be held locally, and the commissioners might reverse their earlier ruling.

Twelve citizens spoke against a new library, emphasizing the increase in taxes; nineteen residents spoke in favor of the new library. They discussed limitations of the present building for children's programs, lack of quiet area for reading and study and for literacy tutoring sessions, lack of parking, and the cost of delaying the building program.

Supporters of the project were hoping for a decision from the Tax Commissioners by Friday, July 19, the date set by the Indiana State Library for a decision on the federal grant funds. The Tax Commissioners had not reached a decision by that date, but the State Library extended their deadline. By doing so, the State Library has allowed Lowell Library to remain in the running, but it also gives other libraries a chance to qualify for the \$401,000.00 in grant funds. The \$528,113 in Build Indiana Funds were not effected by the deadline.

The library would like to thank all of those who spoke (or were willing to speak and didn't get the opportunity) at the hearing in favor of a new building. We know it is not always easy to take a public stand on an issue, particularly a controversial one. Your support means a great deal to us.

A special thanks to the seven members of the library board, the five members of the leasing corporation, and the Friends of the Library who have been willing to give up their free time and sign their name on the dotted line to make this project happen.

For those of you who missed the hearing, a video cassette is available at the library for you to borrow.

BULLETIN

WE HAVE JUST RECEIVED WORD THAT THE TAX COMMISSIONERS HAVE APPROVED

THE NEW LIBRARY

