

TO: Carlock Library Board

FROM: Mike and Sharon Miller

RE: Public Comments – Request for Formal Apology

DATE: December 15, 2020

At the December 14, 2020 Special Board Meeting, the Board made it clear that it wants to insulate itself and the Library Director from any public criticism. It is also clear that the Board is prepared to take extreme measures to stifle public criticism and dissent, especially if the dissent is coming from a fellow trustee. We believe that first amendment rights are not suspended when it comes to dealing with the Carlock Library Board, its President, or the Library Director.

The Board must now address the following special case.

In August 2019 the Board held a public hearing to receive comments on its tentative budget for the fiscal-year ending June 30, 2020. Catherine Metsker, White Oak Township supervisor, attended the hearing and participated with comments and questions. Catherine was treated rudely by Trustees Barr and Inselmann, while other Board members sat silently. The Board's silence implied it condoned the rude behavior of Barr and Inselmann.

Catherine Metsker attended the December 14, 2020 Special Board Meeting. At that meeting Library Director Denise Litwiller attacked Catherine for her participation in the 2019 public hearing. The attack on Catherine by the Director was filled with falsehoods, but that is not the point. The main point is that an attack on a member of the public by the Library Director is out of order and should have resulted in an immediate termination of her employment at the Library.

The Library needs to find a way to increase its fading public support. Attacking the public comments of one of the District's township supervisors is irresponsible and embarrassing. As a remedy a formal apology on behalf of the President and the Board as a whole should be sent to Catherine Metsker. In addition the Board should reprimand the Library Director in writing. Both the apology and the reprimand should be sent to Catherine and both should be made part of the public record.

Mike and Sharon