

Village board discusses library expansion with public

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The Cambridge Village Board held their bi-monthly meeting as well as a public hearing on Tuesday, Feb. 26 in the community room at the Amundson Center.

The public hearing was offered to discuss the financing of the library expansion for 2014.

President Steve Struss presented the history of the library and the increased need for an expansion. He added that there have been many parties working for quite some time to make this project possible, and also talked about the possibility of a referendum.

There were 12 attendees of

the hearing that chose to address the board. They were allowed three minutes each.

Many spoke in favor of the project, agreeing that an expanded library would be beneficial to the community and would most likely increase revenue in the village.

There was some concern however about where the funds would come from, and many agreed a referendum would be the best course of action.

Anneliese Valdes stated that she is involved in the community and knows that a good library program is essential.

She commented that the tax impact would be minimal, especially compared to the impact the new library would have on the community.

Another citizen, Tony Buonincontro stated that he had concerns about the financing, and how costs were derived. He also made comments on overage and fiscal responsibility.

Struss continued the topic of financing as well. He said the next step moving forward is the decision on whether or not to pursue financing options.

The terms have not been decided on, but there were 10-, 15-, and 20-year options discussed.

There is still much work to be done, but the general consensus is that the project is important and should be done as long as the financial impact isn't detrimental to taxpayers.

After more discussion it was

said that going to referendum does not make the decision binding, but does allow for all taxpaying residents to have a vote.

After review, the tallies for the new library expansion were 35 in favor, four against and one uncertain.

Additionally from the 40 total attendees, eight spoke in favor of the project, and four were against it.

There was also discussion of how to curb spending if the project does move forward, and

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such things as scaling back capital improvement projects and possible TIF creation were put on the table.

In the end the board voted to approve the pursuit of borrowing \$400,000 in 2014 based on the positive public feedback at the hearing.

After the public hearing, the board continued on with their regular meeting.