

## Oakland votes to support new library

The Town of Oakland Board voted Tuesday, March 19 to budget \$70,000 over two years to help build a new community library in Cambridge, its next door neighbor.

Before a full house of library supporters at the Oakland Town Hall, the board discussed the \$110,000 request from library fundraisers and its own financial constraints for about an hour before a voice vote to approve budgeting \$35,000 in 2014 and \$35,000 in 2015 for the \$1.8 million library project.

Supervisor Ted Crawford moved the question which passed on a voice vote.

Clerk Veronica Heenan said she recorded it as unanimous.

Board Chairman Eugene Kapsner spoke in opposition to the funding during discussion, but later was recorded as "aye" on the motion.

The crowd applauded the decision.

Cambridge library fundraisers have worked off and on over about 10 years to marshal funds for a larger library to replace the 2,112 square foot facility in the 23-year-old two-story village center.

The new library would be an addition to the center.

Like Oakland, communities around the village have been asked to participate in the funding in proportion to their residents' use of the library.

With pledges from communities for funding, the Cambridge Library Capital Campaign has built last year's starting base of about \$612,000 to over \$1.1 million.

The Village of Cambridge has pledged \$400,000, the Town of Christiana, \$54,000, Town of Deerfield and Village of Rockdale, \$10,000 each.

A public subscription campaign is contemplated for this year.

Kapsner set the tone for the discussion at the beginning, telling campaign leader Bob Salov that his group had done "a great job of pitting communities against each other" in seeking funding.

"I thought for awhile we were in 'Occupy Madison,'" he joked.

Later, when Kapsner remarked that he considered a library "a non-essential thing," former *Cambridge News* editor Barbro McGinn gasped. That triggered an exchange between the two, with McGinn asking why he would say "such an ignorant thing."

Kapsner replied that he said it to produce just the sort of reaction that he got.

"I knew I would get that kind of response," he said.

The vote on the motion by Crawford followed in short order with supervisors Tom Jensen and Joy Graffin also voting yes.

Salov said the action "gets us over the fiscal threshold" even though the pledge is \$40,000 short of the request.

"This is a lot better than zero," he said.

Still to be heard from are three foundations, including the Cambridge Foundation with a rich history of supporting community projects and programs.