

Letter to editor: Westfield Library Board has **‘Cart before the Horse’**

Fact – 1...The Library Board has spent thousands of dollars to design a totally new library building that they plan to locate at a new, distant site (196th St.).

Fact – 2...The Library Board has entered into a ‘deal’ with the Westfield-Washington School Corporation to swap the current library building for 10 acres of ‘cheap’ (\$30,000/acre) land at 196th St. This ‘cheap’ land is a full three miles north and west of the center of the downtown Westfield.

Fact – 3...The Library Board has no money to pay for this new, grandiose project. The only source for this \$16,900,000 building is to borrow all the money from the Indiana Bond Bank. If they are successful in obtaining financing, an annual payment of over \$1,500,000 will be required for the next 21 years. This doubles the Library’s annual operating budget. As taxes are the only funding source for the Library, the cost of building and operating a new library will double the Library portion of property taxes in Washington Township.

Fact – 4...There are many alternatives available that the Library Board has scoffed at, including expanding at the current location. Citizens have attempted to provide input to them only to be rebuked and told: Where is the cheap land? The current location has served the community for many years and is very acceptable. Expanding there is a considerably lower cost alternative.

Fact – 5...The Library Board members are not elected. They are appointed by various government entities. The Library Board does not answer to any elected body. They only have to sell their plans (budgets) for expenditures to a state agency. The Library Board has the power to tax you directly and... that doesn’t seem right. This is clearly **Taxation without Representation**. The Boston tea party was a result of similar antics. History shows us a lesson that hasn’t been remembered.

A Question for Washington Township property tax payers. Would you pay an architect to design a new home and make a deal for bare land without any money or guaranteed financing in hand? Your Library Board has. This is a classic **‘Cart before the Horse’** situation.

Citizens of Washington Township, put a stop to uncontrolled taxation. Please take the time to sign the blue remonstrance form. The web site, www.westfieldlibrary.info will tell you how to get the remonstrance form to your door.

Ted Engelbrecht...522 Wind Skip Circle, Westfield, IN 46074
Phone: (317) 896-9295