Finance Committee
April 17, 1953

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

Members present: Mr. Stafford presiding; Mrs. Bailey, Mrs. Ridgley, Mr. Owen. Mr. Felts substituted for Mr. Gore.

Each item in the tentative budget for 1954-55 submitted by the Librarian was carefully studied. With the exception of staff salaries and maintenance wages, it was decided that the figures be recommended to the Board as set down by her.

The Librarian was asked if the staff would feel that the raises as passed by the Board at the March meeting were not adequate. She replied that she felt sure the staff would be most pleased when the raises were announced. However, their request was that the Board consider a schedule of minimums and maximums with certain steps in between. The members agreed that further study be made regarding the wisdom of setting up a payroll schedule.

The Librarian was instructed to inform the staff that the Board is not ready to consider a payroll plan at this time. Salaries voted for in 1953-54 will continue in 1954-55. If staff members want to discuss the subject with the Trustees, the latter will welcome them.

Respectfully submitted,

Muriel E. Perry

Muriel E. Perry
Secretary

Board of Trustees
April 24, 1953

The regular meeting of the Board was called to order at 3:35 o'clock.

Members present: Mr. Stafford presiding, Mrs. Bailey, Mrs. Gage, Mrs. Ridgley, Messrs. Blackford, Felts, Gore, Hull and Owen. Note was taken of the fact that it was the first time in many months that every member was present.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

The Librarian's Report for March was examined and ordered filed.

The motion was made by Mr. Owen, seconded by Mr. Blackford and unanimously passed that bills to the amount of $3,154.46 and payroll for $4,893.67 be paid.

The Report of the Finance Committee meeting, April 17th, was read. The motion was made by Mr. Owen, seconded by Mr. Blackford and unanimously passed that the statement referring to 1954-55 salaries be approved.

It was agreed that the Annual Meeting be held Thursday, May 14th at 4:00 o'clock.

A letter from the University of Illinois Graduate Library School was read in which Dr. Stone said he would have an estimate made of expenses for a total survey of the Library.

Mr. Stafford brought up the subject of the Librarian's activities in opposing House Bill 178 which had just passed its second reading in the State Assembly. He said several Trustees questioned her right to send letters to the Legislators. Mr. Owen said he believed that any subject of a controversial nature should have the Board's sanction before it was acted upon.

Mr. Hull said that no future letters should be sent without the Board's previous knowledge.

Mr. Felts' opinion was that it was incredible that a Bill so harmful to public libraries was being considered by the Representatives. If true, the citizens should be aroused. If not true, no action should be taken.

Mrs. Gage observed that the Librarian had used the first person in her letters with no mention of the Board and, therefore, the Board was not involved.

Mr. Blackford suggested that a Committee be appointed to take care of such instances.

The Librarian said that she had acted professionally in her endeavors to protect the Library and support the interests of public libraries in Illinois. She had acted strictly within her responsibility and duty. The Board had received Mr. Stafford's and her report on the Legislature Committee meeting in Springfield last month. A copy of her letter to the Representatives had been sent to each Trustee to keep him informed. Although her letter was personal, it was impossible in such an instance not to involve the Board since as Librarian she represented the Board. In opposing so vicious a Bill, it was incredible to her that the Board would censure her so severely for carrying out her responsibilities. She asked for a definite statement from the members defining the terms "policy-making" and "administration" with which she might avoid so unfortunate a meeting in the future.

Mr. Felts contacted Mr. Banton, the Herald-Review Reporter in Springfield, who reported that the State Legislative Reference Bureau said that the .08% income rate noted in the bill had been changed in the second reading to .15%.

No action was taken on the subject.

The Librarian asked the Board for permission to purchase a Demco Hospital Booktruck for use in servicing the prisoners in the County Jail. In 1949 the price was $160.00. Mr. Hull questioned such service as a public library function.

Mr. Felts asked if there were not some other group of citizens more deserving of service.

Mrs. Bailey asked if there were a more conservative way of getting books to them without sending a librarian and buying a truck.

The Librarian said books might be carried in a basket rather than on a truck. Mr. Hull suggested that a Trusty come to the Library to take books to the prisoners.

The Librarian was asked to figure out some simple way of servicing them.

A discussion of the 1954-55 budget took place. The Board agreed to accept the figures recommended by the Financial Committee.

The Librarian reminded the Board that if the City Council cuts and/or collection fees are deducted, we shall fall below our estimated minimums. Mrs. Gage said that the Council must accept our figures as honest or the people should be told what happens. Mr. Hull felt that the Library could well sustain cutting. The motion was made by Mr. Gore, seconded by Mr. Hull and unanimously passed that collection fees be added to the budget as a separate figure.

The meeting adjourned at 5:10 o'clock.

Respectfully submitted,

Muriel E. Perry

Muriel E. Perry
Secretary.