

December 17, 2014

Central Skagit Rural Partial Library District  
100 W. State Street, Suite C  
Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284

RE: Follow-up on meeting regarding interagency collaboration

Dear Chairperson Coslor and members of the board:

I was surprised to read that your library director is returning home at the end of the year. A few weeks ago, we met with Jill, you and Chris Silves to discuss possible collaboration between the City of Sedro-Woolley and the District. With Jill moving home, I am writing today to follow up on that conversation so any possible momentum isn't lost in the staff transition.

We had a good conversation and discussed many options. The question that was asked of the city from the district was what sort of partnerships or collaborations might be possible between the libraries. We responded that all options are on the table for discussion ranging from a short term solution to allow district patrons access to a library now to a more lasting partnership or joint venture in the future.

In many ways we are well matched including our geographical proximity to one another, our educational base through the Sedro-Woolley School District where all district middle and high school kids attend school in the city, and our commitment of resources to serve the library. In 2014, we committed \$310,085 in direct costs to the library which is \$.44/\$1,000 A/V. This budget does not include any costs for the building (rent, cleaning, maintenance, capital, etc), any costs for overhead allocations for services provided by the city's finance, legal, information technology and executive departments, or any other overhead allocations. There is no question that our actual commitment to the Sedro-Woolley library exceeds the \$.50/\$1,000 A/V that the district currently collects from its residents.

The city has operated a library in this community since about 1912 (in agreement with the Carnegie Foundation as an expansion the original library which was located at Woodworth and Metcalf around 1892). It does not, however, make sense to me for two entities that share so much in common to build duplicative facilities. We can and should be better stewards of the taxpayers' dollars and jointly we should be able to provide better service than what we might provide if we go it each alone. Many options exist and examples in our state abound: from La Conner locally to Stanwood regionally to the Libraries of Stevens County statewide, cities and districts have worked together on joint library projects with enduring success. We are open to these discussions and the range of options is wide open. For example, if the district were to divide itself in half at the Skagit River and contract with the city for services, we could serve that portion of the district while the southern portion is served by a district owned facility located at Big Lake. Another option would be a jointly constructed library facility in Sedro-Woolley with

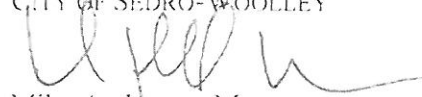
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the city contracting with the district to provide services to the city (obviously, many details would have to be addressed including maintaining our employees in the new library). The reverse scenario, consolidation, annexation, etc., are all options that have yet to be explored beyond our single meeting.

The time is right to have these conversations and explore all possible options that would best serve our community and efficiently use taxpayers' dollars. We are willing to meet and discuss collaboration. Will you join us?

Sincerely,

CITY OF SEDRO-WOOLLEY



Mike Anderson, Mayor

cc: City Council  
Sedro-Woolley Public Library Trustees  
County Commissioners