

From: **Helge** hmandersson@earthlink.net
Subject: Ward 5
Date: January 25, 2016 at 10:44 AM
To: #sw-city-ward5 ward5@ci.sedro-woolley.wa.us

Monday, January 25, 2016

Dear Mr. Owens:

It has come to my attention that the new mayor of Sedro-Woolley, with apparently the full support of the City Council, has offered to build a new library for the Central Skagit Library District which would grandfather in Sedro-Woolley's City library collection and staff and give the Central Skagit District authority over both.

This offer is so wrong in so many ways:

- 1) The Sedro-Woolley City library belongs to the residents (taxpayers) of Sedro-Woolley -- it is not yours to give away;
- 2) The residents of Sedro-Woolley need to be **consulted** as to whether they want to give away their 100+-years-strong library;
- 3) I strongly object to putting our collection under the auspices of the county-appointed Board of this Central Skagit Library District: people who are not accountable even to their own constituents (since they are self-perpetuating and not elected), people who have consistently shown disdain and demonstrated hostility towards Sedro-Woolley during their 3 years of existence;
- 4) What will happen to our library's collection? We have many older books that are not available elsewhere, including online (which I hate to read anyway), as well as many local books on local history. If this collection is given to another entity, there is no guarantee these materials will be valued, or even kept;
- 5) By what right can you offer to build a library for the Central Skagit Library district when our own library is so needy, including needing a new front door? I

don't want my tax money to go for a county-run building. My city taxes should go to my city; I will consult my attorney as to the legality of this aspect of this proposal;

6) What has changed since the City Council meeting at which you refused to allow this same Central Skagit Library District to purchase property along the Hwy 20 corridor, to now, when you are proposing to take my tax money and build them one, giving away our city's collection in the process?;

7) I have no objection to collaboration between the two library districts, but am greatly resistant to subjugating the City's library to the control of the County Commissioners. What possible benefit can result to our residents if you give away our assets? We will be treated as 2nd-class citizens AND we will lose our collection. How can this action possibly be legal?

I will give you a chance to respond responsibly before I write to the Skagit Valley Herald and consult my attorney, but be assured I will take these steps to keep the public apprised.

Sincerely, your constituent, A. Helge Andersson, 928 Beachley Rd., Sedro-Woolley



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