

Lansing's library board picks temporary director

By **MIKE NOLAN**
Staff Writer

LANSING — The search for a new director for the Lansing Public Library has started in the wake of last week's resignation of veteran director Joanne Jensen, library board members said Thursday night.

During a special meeting, the board voted to name Assistant Librarian Norine Beemsterboer as temporary library director until an interim or permanent director can be found.

The board will seek help from the Suburban Library System (SLS) in its search.

"We're putting our heads together to see where we're going to go," board President David Tanis said.

Beemsterboer has been assistant librarian since 1967, and board members said they plan to discuss at their May 17 meeting whether Beemsterboer will be paid more in her new job.

She will "be responsible for the day-to-day affairs" of the library, Tanis said.

Jensen quit April 26 after 24 years as head of the library. Jensen, who had worked for the library for 29 years, cited harass-

ment by board members and anger over not getting a pay raise as reasons for resigning.

Board members said they will meet with representatives of the SLS to get pointers on how to locate a replacement for Jensen. Lansing is one of 85 public libraries in Cook, Will and Du Page counties served by SLS, which provides a variety of services to member libraries.

Lorraine Gates, former librarian at the Calumet City Public Library, questioned board members about Jensen's resignation and why she was not given a raise. Tanis said the decision not to give a raise was based on a job evaluation.

"There were problems," Tanis said of the evaluation. "She (Jensen) was aware of them."

Gates told board members they "lost a very nice person" in Jensen.

Tanis said no decision has been made on how to conduct the search for a director. The board has not set a deadline for hiring a new director, he said.

"If we're going to get the kind of person we need for this job, it's going to take some time," Tanis said.

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