

Library board begins search for administrator

By KIMBERLY LINK

Lansing Public Library Board of Directors will seek the help of the Suburban Library System (SLS) to hire a new librarian.

The move comes as a result of the sudden resignation recently of veteran librarian Joanne Jensen, who cited unfair treatment as her reason for quitting.

Jensen, who served as the head librarian for nearly 25 years, charged late last month that she was the only library employee who did not receive a pay raise in next year's municipal budget.

Library board member Terry McKenna said that the SLS offered to help in the search for a new librarian.

"The SLS sent us a letter, knowing what happened," he said.

The system's duties could include

advertising and interviewing for the position.

"They've helped us before. They're pretty thorough," McKenna said, explaining that the board made the decision to enlist the help of the SLS at its Thursday night meeting.

He pointed out that the role the SLS will play in the hiring of a new librarian could be drawn up at the May 17 board meeting.

McKenna said that, in the meantime, the board has appointed Noreen Beemsterboer as interim librarian.

He explained that she previously served as "Number 2 in command."

McKenna went on to say that the board also met with the approximately 24 employees on the library staff Thursday "to make sure they were comfortable" with the proceedings.

From the meeting, the board learned that the library staff is not worried about the former librarian's resignation affecting their work or the ability to attract a new head, according to McKenna.

"We have a pretty good library. It's a good opportunity for someone who is qualified" to come in and serve as librarian, he explained.

Former librarian Jensen had alleged that she had been under fire from some board members as a result of the firing of the former children's librarian, reportedly a friend of a former board member.

Jensen earlier said that she decided to resign her post after she learned she was the only village employee who would not be getting a salary hike.

Student charged in battery incident

A 17-year-old TF North High School student was taken into custody Friday after allegedly holding a female teacher in a neck lock for several seconds.

Jamie Lee Littrell, 17, Calumet City, was arrested and charged with battery after the 46 year-old woman reported to police that the youth had physically abused her on several other occasions, grabbing her by the waist and shaking her.

Littrell, the teacher said, is not one of her students. According to a police spokeswoman, Littrell was charged as an adult.

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