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Board calls Jensen victory 'no problem'

BY JOAN CARREON

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LANSING — Three Lewis O. Flom Lansing Public Library Board members say they do not anticipate any problems with the addition of former Library Director Joanne Jensen to their ranks.

Board members William Lathrop and Terry McKenna said Thursday that because Jensen will serve in a different capacity, they expect she will approach situations with a new perspective.

Unofficial results from Tuesday's election show Jensen the top-vote getter in the six-way race for two six-year library terms. Former village Treasurer David Przybyl also won election to the board, as did incumbent Robert Reich, who was unopposed in his bid for a four-year library seat.

Jensen's election caught many residents by surprise. She abruptly resigned her job as library director in April 1990 because of differences she

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had with the board.

She said she was subjected to harassment and insults by a board faction during the past several years and was the only village employee denied a pay raise during her final year on the job.

Tuesday night, Jensen said her victory "solves a lot of the hurt" but that she did not plan to be "antagonistic."

Jensen, 61, worked as the library's director for 24 years and also served for five years as assistant director.

Board secretary Bonnie Garrison, whom Jensen previously named as one of her adversaries, could not be reached for comment Thursday. Reich also was unavailable for comment.

Other board members said they do not expect a return of the clashes with Jensen.

"I have no adverse reaction. I've already spoken with Joanne and congratulated her," board Treasurer William Lathrop said, adding that Jensen appears to be "very upbeat and positive" with "honorable" intentions.

"I don't foresee it as a problem. I really don't think her desire is to be disruptive," Lathrop said.

Even if she was to be "a disruptive force," Lathrop said Jensen is only one voice on a seven-member board.

McKenna, who is friends with Jensen's son, said he also does not think Jensen's board membership will present any problems.

"I'm guessing they both (Jensen and Przybyl) should just help the board," McKenna said.

"She's going to work in a different capacity, and I think it will work out well," he said. "She'll be looking at all situations differently. She's just one person. Hopefully, she'll be a help."

Board member Eric Samuelson echoes McKenna and Lathrop's sentiments.

"I don't think there'll be any problems. The voters have voted," Samuelson said, adding that a lot depends on Jensen. "It's up to Mrs. J. We don't know how she's going to be."

McKenna said he previously considered stepping down from the board because he felt he was not able to give the necessary time to the job.

However, he said the arrival of Library Director Janice Bojda has helped take "a lot of the burden" off the board.

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Joanne Jensen 4-5-91