



## The Newsletter of the Argyle Public Library Board's Building Committee

# Off the Shelf

Winter 2023

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## Fire Chief Speaks at Meetings about Library Space Needs



*Above: Fire Chief Dave Soper (second from right) attended the Library Board of Directors meeting on February 20th to discuss a new space for the Library.*

Working toward a bigger and better site for the Argyle Public Library has been a mission of the Library Board and its Building Committee for nearly two years. Argyle-Adams Fire Chief Dave Soper moved the issue to the center of the table with an important and well thought-out presentation to the Argyle Village Board at its meeting on February 8th. The February 16, 2023 edition of the *Pecatonica Valley Leader* featured Soper's presentation as front page news. He made a similar presentation at the Library Board of Directors meeting on February 20th.

At both meetings, Soper laid out a compelling argument in favor of updating the Library, Fire Station, and EMS facilities all at the same time, and including a multi-purpose community meeting room in the project. His idea is that working on all

these things at the same time will provide significant cost savings over time. He also recommended carrying out this project sooner rather than later because costs will only continue to rise.

A consultant has provided Soper with a proposal for engineering drawings and design fees. The estimate for this preliminary work was just under \$80,000. Soper sees

this as a good investment: "In order to do all those things right, it would need to be done correctly, [which means] hiring an engineering firm to give the village a concept drawing of all the things [the community wishes] to get done."

How would this preliminary work be funded? Soper shared some ideas. The fire department is a partnership made up of three entities: the Adams Township, and Argyle Township, and the Village of Argyle. They, along with the Library and EMS, could work together to pay for a professional analysis and well thought-out plan for moving forward.

Building Committee Co-Chair Monica Hodgson agrees that working together may be what is needed to bring a more functional library space to the community. She emphasized why the issue is important for the community both today and in the future: "Where would we be without our library? We need all the amenities libraries can offer." 🐾

## Friends of the Argyle Public Library News

The inaugural Friends end-of-year newsletter was published in January. Copies are available at the Library, on the Library's website, or on the Friends facebook page. The Friends Board of Directors showed its appreciation for the work of the Library staff by hosting a reception at the Community Building on February 26th. Library board members were also on hand to celebrate their work. The Board is busy

planning 2023 activities, including the annual meeting in April and the annual used book sale on the first weekend in June which will be held in the community room of First National Bank and Trust in downtown Argyle. To become a Friends member, stop by the Library and pick up a membership form. Membership is a great way to get involved and support the Argyle Public Library. 🍪

### At the Library

A visit to the Library or going to its website or Facebook page are good ways to find the most up-to-date information about Library programs, services, and hours of operation. Here are a few highlights:

- The Library's 142nd year Anniversary Party in January was a smashing success with more than 60 people in attendance to celebrate the Library's history, enjoy cupcakes from Farmer's Daughter Bakery and Kitchen, and play old-fashioned games led by Kate Franzmann from Folklore Village.
- And speaking of games, recent library-sponsored activities include chess, white-board Pictionary, and dominoes. Stop by at an upcoming event to test your gaming skills!
- The expanded evening hours are working well. Please keep in mind that the Library is now open until 7:00 p.m. on Mondays and Tuesdays.
- Winter weather has played mischief with Library programs and author visits! Several events will be rescheduled for March or April, so it promises to be a busy Spring at the Library.

### About the Building Committee

*The Building Committee is made up of 15 community members working to find a larger space for the Argyle Public Library. The need for a larger library was recognized as far back as 2004. A formal space assessment completed in 2020 said that a community Argyle's size should have a library with a minimum of 3000-4000 square feet of space, compared to the current space of only 900 square feet. The most critical issue is that the current library is not fully accessible to those using walkers, strollers, and wheelchairs. It also lacks sufficient space for children's story times and for tables and chairs where people can sit. Why do this now? A new crop of programs, stimulus funds, and foundation grants has become available to help pay for a library project like this, and the Committee sees this as the right time to move forward. To stay informed, find **Off the Shelf** in the Pecos Valley Leader, at the Library, or on the Library's website. Or subscribe by sending an email to [communicationscommittee53504@gmail.com](mailto:communicationscommittee53504@gmail.com).*