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EDITORIAL

A simple yes or no would suffice

After four years of waiting for the Village of Lawrence to approve the proposed move of the Peninsula Public Library from its present woefully inadequate facility on Central Avenue to a site at the Lawrence LIRR station, library trustees thought they would finally get an answer when the plan made its way onto the agenda of the Aug. 3 Lawrence village board meeting. Instead, in what can only be described as a through-the-looking-glass moment, village trustees unanimously voted *down* a motion *not* to sell, under any circumstances, the land near the train station.

The motion was proposed (and then opposed) by Trustee Michael Fragin to demonstrate that under some circumstances, the village would be amenable to the sale of the property the library seeks. But whether those circumstances would include a sale to the library, under what terms and, most important, when, was not addressed.

Confused? So are we.

No simple yes or no answer; no answer at all. Once again, library users, trustees and the general public are left playing a waiting game.

Village trustees need to get their act together and give the library — and the entire community — a straight answer.

Why all the bickering and obstructionist behavior at Village Hall? People are wondering who's running things. Seeing Fragin and fellow Trustee Joel Mael conducting side meetings last week while the official board meeting remained in session was further evidence that the board is in disarray.

After a century of comity and government by consensus in Lawrence, certain members of the current board seem consumed by infighting and intrigue. Otherwise, how do you explain the board's unreasoned obstruction of the library plan? There have been no serious concerns voiced about the design of the building or the impact it would have on

the station or neighboring Zion Park. This project would benefit all segments of the community, from preteens to seniors, Orthodox to atheists. It's a win-win proposition.

The village has had more than enough time to evaluate the library plan; it should not be held hostage by a few members of the board. Trustees need to act decisively and swiftly to approve the library's move.

As we have editorialized in the past, the library's plan is a good one. It will put PPL back on a par with other libraries in Nassau County — the vast majority of which have built new facilities over the past decade or two. Delay hurts the residents of Lawrence, District 15 and the entire Five Towns community.

Even if the answer is no, at least the PPL trustees and the voting public would know where they stand and could pursue other options.

A straight answer would be greatly appreciated.

LETTERS

Still optimistic about PPL move

To the Editor:

Thank you for the article "Motion commotion" in last week's issue, on the plight of the Peninsula Public Library in relation to the Village of Lawrence and its board of trustees. The potential move of the library is an important issue for all residents of District 15, especially the residents of Lawrence. I really appreciate your coverage and support on this issue.

I would be remiss if I also didn't thank the two village officials — Mayor Simon Felder and Deputy Mayor Martin Oliner — who have enthusiastically embraced this project and spoken eloquently in defense of re-siting the library to the Long Island Rail Road parking lot in Lawrence.

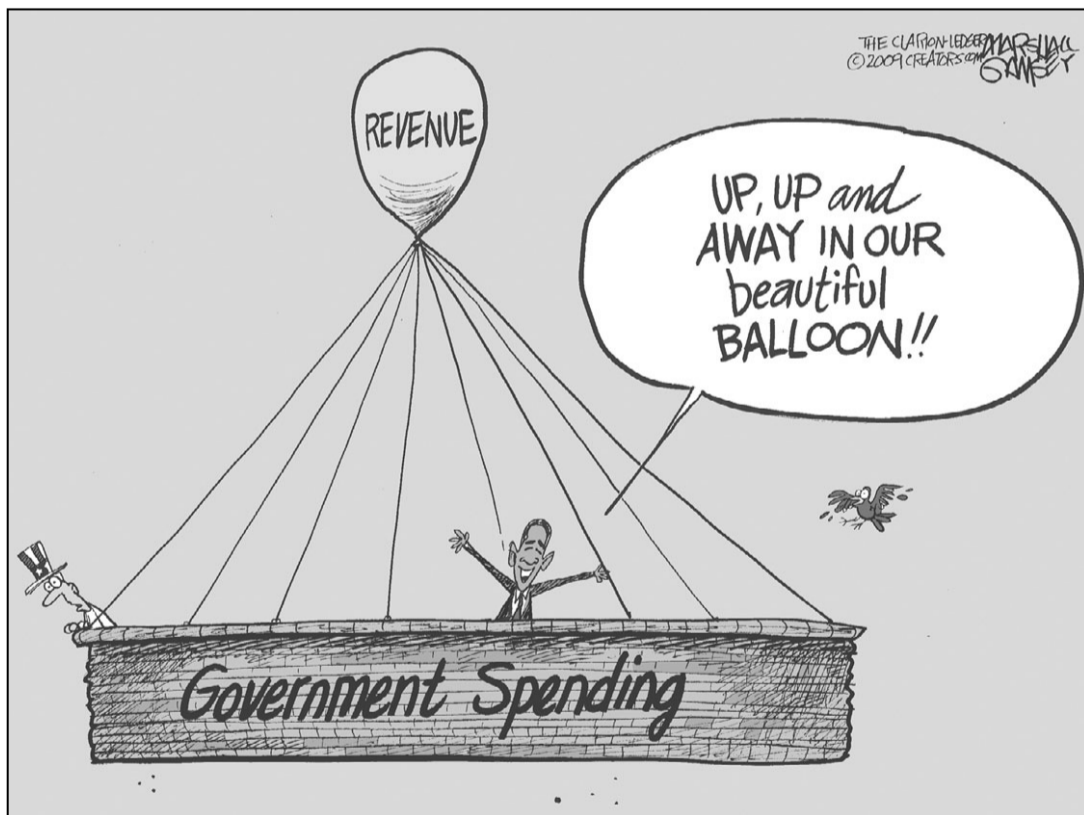
As for Trustees Michael Fragin, Edward Klar and Joel Mael, who aren't yet ready to commit for whatever their reasons might be, I, and many other residents, remain optimistic that they will eventually recognize this plan as an exciting public-use project that would be a wonderful addition to the Village of Lawrence.

JOAN LEPELSTAT
Lawrence

Questioning the plaintiffs' motives

To the Editor:

This lawsuit ("Lawrence S.D. sued over consolidation," Aug. 6-12) is another waste of tax-



payer money in the guise of seeking what the children want. Have these so-called parents followed what is behind the closing of a school? Have they read the superintendent's recommendation to close a school? Have they studied the Board of Education's estimates of costs to fix the Number Six School? Do they really care?

How many of these parents in the Number Six School flout the rules to have their kids attend the so-called "jewel of the district" instead of the closer schools their kids rightfully should be attending? If the so-called non-public school parents played such games, what would be their reaction?

As the board has said, "frivolous lawsuits have been brought before" — this is another. The courts should utilize the powers they have

and assess costs and fines pursuant to code for the bringing of this frivolous lawsuit.

Instead of lawsuits, the community should be opening dialogue, talking and understanding, and working together to improve the system for all students.

ELIEZER COHEN
Cedarhurst

Taxing like it's 1999

To the Editor:

For 10 years, Legislator Jeff Toback has been taxing like it's 1999 and blaming his decade-long, \$1.4 billion spending spree on people who were