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Letters to the Editor Nov. 25

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District 230 board meeting used to highlights academic achievements
Library's tax levy another questionable action

I have been following the behavior of the Orland Park Public Library and feel that considerable deceit was used to pass the recent tax levy hike to 12 percent — this was a near-quadrupling of the previous levy of 3.5 percent. The OPPL used misdirection to get the tax levy hike it wanted and never [actually] considered making spending cuts.

First, the OPPL claimed it conducted a survey that it said proved the public would support a high tax levy hike. This is not true, [as] no survey of all Orland residents was conducted. Instead, the OPPL surveyed people inside the library building.

Second, the questions asked were purposefully skewed to get people to say “Yes” to a 12 percent levy hike because the OPPL told them that children's programming would be cut otherwise. This was [misleading].

It is the same [deception] that PBS uses whenever it wants more tax money and threatens to ... take away “Sesame Street” so that the public will not oppose tax increases. In reality, canceling “Sesame Street” is never something PBS will actually do and the OPPL never intended to really cut children's programming. This misdirection is just to scare people and tug at heartstrings.

Third, the OPPL could save tens of thousands of dollars a year by cutting spending on extravagant perks received by staff and board members.
Did you know that the OPPL is one of the biggest clients of the Orland Park Bakery? Too much money is spent buying cakes, donuts and other sweet treats for library staff celebrations every month.

Did you know that the OPPL staff eat frequently at expensive restaurants like Granite City and order Chipotle or Potbelly sandwiches and charge those meals to the public? Library Director Mary Weimar has a total annual compensation package of $187,000 per year, according to the OPPL’s website, and yet she submits reimbursements for the cinnamon creme cake and sandwiches she buys from Corner Bakery.

Extravagant spending should have been cut before any levy increase was even considered.

Kevin DuJan

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