LFTF Subcommittee on Funding   April 7, 2017

At our first meeting we discussed the papers we have drafted looking at various ideas for funding a County wide library.

These are the major discussion points:

- Conversion of the current data base (Sirsi Dynix) to any other data base that might be used to manage the library collection. It was our belief that once the Library has been shut down, the existing data base will be as accurate as possible, and that it could be converted to another data base we might use in the future. We are researching how much that might cost.
- The ESD might offer support to help run the library. We need to be clearer about that arrangement. While some of us thought the ESD was requesting 12,000 square feet of space to house their operation, it looks like when we include the storage space they need, the number is more like 24,000 Square feet of space. We are researching how much space that will leave for library operations.
- We believe there is a County Courier operation and it may provide the potential to help deliver materials to the branch libraries. We are researching this.
- We keep looking for a way to manage all this. It is clear the County Commissioners will be out of this business come June 30, 2017. One of the answers to this problem is to create a Special District to manage the Library. It is clear to us that the earliest such a district could be on a ballot would be November of 2017. There is a tight time line for this to happen, and it is possible such an effort could not make a ballot until May 2018.

- We discussed what form this District might take:
    - A District with a zero tax.
    - A noncontiguous district that would include those areas of the County that are interested in forming such a district.
- Funding:
    - Use ESD as a collaborator.
    - Seek a Local Option Levy (limited time period funding).
    - Seek a District Taxing authority in conjunction with forming a District (permanent funding).
    - Seek support from other county resources.
        - Employment and workforce development agencies
    - Joint operations with Schools and/or UCC.

Our next meeting is scheduled for 12:00 P.M. Friday, April 14, 2017 immediately following the LFTF meeting.