

Library Construction Delayed

DOUGLAS – Construction of the new Saugatuck Douglas District Library building has been delayed because of ongoing problems with general contractor A&G Construction. Library Director Ingrid Boyer and the Library Board of Trustees are currently working with project construction managers from the Skillman Corporation to resolve the problems. Construction is expected to resume as soon as weather permits early next spring and should be completed by mid-summer, 2020. All costs resulting from the construction problems and delays will be covered by A&G Construction's performance bond, and no library district tax money will be lost.

Construction of the new library building got off to a slower than expected start because of exceptionally wet weather earlier this year. Additional delays ensued when A&G Construction had difficulty obtaining some of the necessary building materials. The mounting problems finally came to a head in mid-October when it was discovered that A&G had made serious mistakes in several crucial aspects of the building work. Following a recommendation from the Skillman Corporation, the Library Board voted on November 4th to suspend work and amend its contract with A&G Construction and to ensure satisfactory resolutions to the problems.

"The challenges we have faced with this building project so far have been very frustrating," said Library Director Ingrid Boyer. "By approving our millage proposal in August, 2018, the voters in this district showed that they strongly support the library's mission to serve the community. We have a wonderful architectural plan for the new library building, which will allow us to fulfill our mission even more effectively. It is a shame that we won't have the new building as soon as we hoped, but we have to make sure the building is constructed correctly."

A&G Construction was the only firm to submit a bid for the general trades portion of the construction project when the new library building was put out to bid earlier this year. Based in Springfield, Michigan, A&G has a good track record of public building projects and the Library Board accepted A&G's bid with every expectation that it would be able to fulfill the terms of its contract. If the Library Board fails to agree on an acceptable solution to the problems caused by A&G Construction, it will terminate the construction contract and move forward with a different contractor.

If you would like to speak to a board member, please contact the Library (269)857-8241.