

# Reed City council tables discussion on library facility

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CADILLAC NEWS

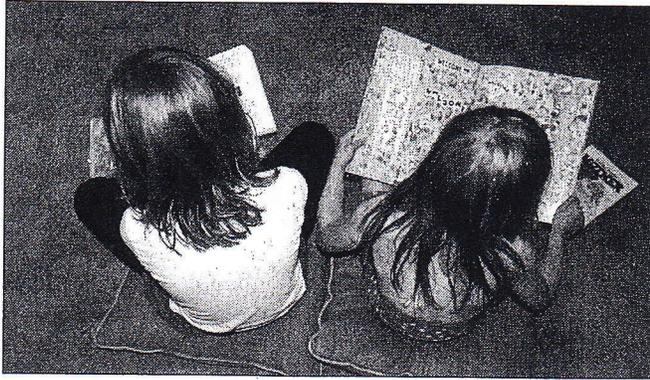
**REED CITY** — The Reed City Council hasn't decided if the municipality wants to enter into a landlord-renter agreement with the Reed City Area District Library.

The future of the newly formed district library's home was discussed during Monday's council meeting.

Council member David Bisbee asked that the council consider making a move seeking bids for the demolition and renovation of the interior of the city-owned property on Chestnut Street that is the planned future home of the library.

In April 2014, the city library was restructured to become a district entity that includes the city of Reed City, Lincoln Township and Richmond Township.

At the time the city supported the restructuring, an agreement that was part



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The Reed City Council hasn't decided if it wants to enter into a landlord-renter agreement with the Reed City Area District Library.

of the 10-year plan included the sale of the Chestnut Street property by the city to the library for \$1.

Last fall, voters approved the library operating millage by a 20-vote margin.

Bisbee said since last fall, no progress has been made on determining the cost of renovating the building and noted there were other options to consider, including the city retaining ownership of the property

while the library leased the building.

Bisbee said time was a factor, as Osceola County will be reclaiming the library's current home, the basement of the county court annex, in June 2016.

Several council members expressed concern over taking any steps, either financially or legally, to assist the library in the project, as the change to a district library took control over the

decision-making process out of the city's hands.

Bisbee asked the city to seek bids from architectural or engineering firms to determine the costs for renovations and set a timeline and noted that the approved millage and grant funding would pay for the project, not the city.

Bisbee said the city would recoup the funds thanks to the operational millage and lease payment, and said as one of the entities of the district library, it was in the city's interest to see the project on to the next phase.

After much discussion, the council tabled any decision to assist the renovation project or a vote on any ownership agreement but did vote 5-2 in favor of allowing city manager Ron Howell to bring a list of questions and concerns to the library board. Council members McKinney and Meinert voted no.

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