

Statement from Tim Plass  
CLN Trustee  
8/10/2023

This May, I ran for this CLN trustee position on **3 R's**:

**Remove** – obscene books from minor access

**Restore** – classic books to minor areas

**Restrain** – no tax increases, no wasted tax dollars

Everyone who voted for me should have understood those points. I won. I take it from the 14k who voted for me that they want these points implemented, so **I am not going to raise taxes.**

My library tax bill last year went up 14.5% with CLN taking a 2% increase. My overall taxes went up 7.5% with the county taking 3% with the assessed value almost doubling. CLN taxes are now almost as much as the PF Highway District and half as much as NIC. Five more years of 14% tax increases will double CLN taxes to be on par with NIC.

**The previous CLN Board of Trustees majority added programs, positions, and raised the new director's salary by \$23k, all at the expense of underpaying staff and taking (\$609k with \$374k for capital projects, 1/19/23, CLN Board meeting) from the previously overgrown taxpayer-funded "Carry Forward" fund.**

**The previous Board of Trustees majority committed to correcting and increasing the staff salaries last fall,** but we simply cannot do that without raising taxes or reducing program funding.

**The previous Board majority's irresponsible decisions are not the taxpayers fault.** Taxpayers should not have to bear consequences of poor management.

Yes, we have brought on new legal counsel, but that is necessary for **the first R: Remove obscene books from minor access.**

The Board of Trustees never suggested closing a library. **The Library Director suggested closing the Harrison Library.**

The Board did not initiate the discussion of closing libraries on Sunday. **The Library Director started the discussion of closing libraries on Sunday** as a way to save money since Sunday is the lowest attendance day.

Most taxpayers are feeling the consequences of rapidly rising costs for groceries, gasoline, utilities and services. We had to make adjustments to the budget without raising taxes.