

In recent months the Algansee Twp. Board has been looking into different ways they can leverage the federal ARPA funds they received before the “use it or lose it” date.

One option they have been considering is making improvements to the current township hall, including an addition, and then moving the library from our present location to the current township hall meeting space. This is 2 miles north of where our library branch is now. The existing township hall is an old structure, which would need some upgrades for a library to be viable, but we’d be looking at about double the square footage over our current location.

Another option they are considering is to build an entirely new facility to house both the township hall and the library, on a parcel of land ready to be donated for this purpose on the corner of Central and Ray-Quincy roads. This location is 2.7 miles north of our current library branch.

The first option would put our Algansee Branch 6 miles away from the Quincy Branch. The second option would put it 5.2 miles away. For comparison, the two closest branches currently are the Coldwater and Quincy branches, at 6.2 miles apart.

The Algansee Twp. Board would like to know if the BDL Board would support either/both of these options.

The library is not unhappy with our current arrangement at Dove’s Store in Algansee. There is a long and wonderful history of library service in this building, and we have a good relationship with the township and with Joy Wood, the store owner. If nothing comes of these township ideas, we expect to have many more great years at our present location. But it’s also true that a modern library needs more than just space for materials. With under 500 square feet for desks, shelves, materials, computers, and more, it can get very snug indeed when groups of people show up for programs. So a chance to increase our opportunities is also welcome. The possible location at the corner of Central and Ray-Quincy roads is the farthest north we would want to go, however. Any closer and we’d just be too close to the Quincy Branch.

Submitted by John Rucker