

WESTCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY PLAN OF SERVICE 2016

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August 13, 2015

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LIBRARY MISSION

Knowledge is essential for the maintenance and the continuous evolution of human society. It is the mission of the Westchester Public Library to be a dynamic library providing free and unprejudiced access to knowledge and information to improve the quality of life, learning, and the economy of the community.

INTRODUCTION – The years 2015 and 2016 has and will be times of change at the Westchester Public Library. The current Library Director will retire at the end of August and Leea Yelich will begin her tenure as the new leader of the Library.

There have been a number of changes in key personnel over the past few years in Information Technology, Circulation Services, Children’s Services, and Adult and Young Adult Services. No new, major personnel changes are anticipated for 2016.

Today, the economic health of the Westchester Public Library continues to be very good. It should remain so unless the economy implodes further, outside forces take steps to remove the library’s financial independence and cut the budget, or should the library itself choose to chart a course in a new financial direction.

BASIC BUDGETARY PLANS – The basic budgetary plans for 2016 are as follows:

1. Adopt a 2016 budget and property tax levy just below the average growth quotient. The growth quotient was recently reported to be 2.6% for 2016. Circuit breaker caps and shortfalls in collections might serve to reduce the library’s levy even further below the growth factor.
2. Operate throughout 2016 without borrowing and invest cash not needed for current operations in secure investment instruments.
3. Maintain current operating hours. Increase staffing levels slightly, increase material acquisitions, and programming services, but plan for possible reductions if necessary.
4. Transfer unexpended revenue to reserve funds at the end of the year where it will be available for future repairs, remodeling, and library service.

LEGISLATION

A bill was introduced again in the last session of the General Assembly that if successfully passed would have given the Porter County Council the power to not just review the Library’s

budget, but final approval over its adoption. The bill failed but the library community can expect the issue to be raised again in future sessions.

The State Board of Accounts has been charged with drafting a set of new internal financial controls and with their implementation in 2016. The library must wait and see if the new controls have any significant impact on current library accounting procedures.

No other major legislation worthy of note was approved.

CURRENT BUDGET - 2015

The library received its official 2015 Budget Order in February. The approved 2015 Operating Budget is \$3,104,282. The Department of Local Government Finance also approved an Operating Fund Levy of \$2,766,505 for 2015.

LEVY, RATE, AND BUDGET CALCULATIONS for 2015

Legislation imposes a cap on the total amount budget expenditures can grow annually based upon the average growth in nonfarm income in the state. All funds receiving income from taxes (Operating, LCPF, LIRF, BIRF) are added together when determining the total permissible expenditure.

The amount that can be raised by tax levy is also controlled.

The 2016 growth quotient will be 2.6%.

Current and projected levies, rates and total budgets are as follow:

| | 2015 Approved | 2016 Proposed |
|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Assessed Valuation | \$1,536,947,048 | \$1,229,557,638 |
| Levy | \$2,766,505 | \$2,838,434 |
| Rate | \$0.1800 | \$0.2309 |
| Budget | \$3,104,282 | \$3,184,993 |

Another factor controlling the amount that can be spent is the caps on the amount of tax that can be levied on a property. These are the 1% - 2% - 3% circuit breaker caps. The impact of circuit breaker credits on the 2015 levy has been reported to be an estimated reduction of \$125,216.60. The Department of Local Government Finance has not yet projected the impact of the circuit breaker credits which will be a reduction in property tax collections for the 2016 budget year. These reductions are not factored into any of our budget calculations.

2016

The total budget amount that can be expended in 2016 after factoring in the 2.6% growth factor is estimated to be about \$3,184,993. The 2016 maximum levy is projected to be \$2,838,434.

The 2016 advertised assessment was reduced to be 80% of the 2015 approved assessment to insure that if the assessment does fall due to some recent changes in how property will be assessed and other factors. The advertised rate should be high enough to compensate for the decrease in assessment. The budget for publication has been calculated accordingly which has resulted in a very high tax rate to be advertised.

OPERATING EXPENDITURE – The proposed 2016 Operating Fund budget of \$3,184,993 includes expenditures totaling \$3,062,200 not including the \$122,793 transfer to the Library Improvement Reserve Fund. The basic budget is more than what is expected to be the maximum amount able to be raised by the tax levy, Circuit Breaker caps notwithstanding.

OPERATING FUND BALANCE – An Operating Fund balance of \$245,897 for the end of 2016 has been included in budget calculations.

TRANSFER TO LIBRARY IMPROVEMENT RESERVE FUND – As noted previously, a transfer of \$122,793 to the Library Improvement Reserve Fund has been planned to be made at the end of 2016. This is much more than \$49,132 planned to be transferred at the end of 2015. The planned transfer for 2016 can be reduced and more expended for other projects as may be determined by the Library Director and the Library Board

LIBRARY CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND – 2011 was the last year of having an appropriation for the Library Capital Projects Fund. The library spent the fund down to \$0 in 2012 and the fund is now dormant.

BOND AND INTEREST REDEMPTION FUND - The library has no bonded debt and does not intend to acquire any in the immediate future. The fund is dormant.

LIBRARY IMPROVEMENT RESERVE FUND – The library does not intend to appropriate any portion of the Library Improvement Reserve Fund. The library may continue to transfer unexpended funds to the Library Improvement Reserve Fund to be used for future capital expenditures. The Library Improvement Reserve Fund balance including investments on June 1, of 2015 was \$5,442,752.01.

RAINY DAY FUND – The library does not intend to appropriate any portion of the Rainy Day Fund. The library may transfer an amount up to an unexpended balance of 10% from the Operating Fund to the Rainy Day Fund at the end of the year, depending upon the amount left unexpended. The Rainy Day Fund balance including investments on June 1, 2015 was \$2, 377,221.23.

Total reserves in LIRF and Rainy Day are \$7,819,973.24.

INVESTMENTS – The library currently has investments from the Library Improvement Reserve Fund and the Rainy Day Fund. Interest earned from the investments of funds must be placed in the fund of origin.

The library is currently works with Horizon Trust and Investment Management to purchase Certificates of Deposits in increments of \$250,000 to insure the library's investments against possible loss by limiting individual investments to amounts covered by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

PUBLIC LIBRARY STANDARDS – The state has a number of standards for public libraries. Libraries unwilling or unable to meet minimum standards will be penalized by being declared ineligible for state funds. The standards are in the process of being revised.

The library reported to the Indiana State Library that it met the standards in 2015 and expects it will continue to be able to meet the minimum standards without any great difficulty or additional expenditure.

FACILITIES - The library will continue to own its three existing facilities, the Thomas Library in Chesterton, the Hageman Library in Porter, and the Library Service Center.

The George Brown Mansion is being leased from the Duneland School Corporation for use by the library as a local history center and museum. Lease payments will continue to be made from the Gift Fund.

OPERATING HOURS – It is proposed that library operating hours remain the same as in 2011. The Thomas Library will operate 9:00 am to 9:00 pm on Monday through Friday and from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm on Saturday. It will also be open from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm on Sunday.

The Hageman Library will continue to operate from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday and 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm on Saturday.

Although the Brown Mansion will be staffed for much of the regular work week, the official operating hours of the Westchester Township Museum are 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm Wednesday through Sunday.

The Adult Learning Center and the Township Trustee will continue to operate in the Library Service Center for their normal operating hours.

STAFFING – The budget proposes the library employ 5 full-time professional Librarians, 12 other full-time employees and 65 part-time assistants for a total staff of 82 full and part time. Part-time employees will be assigned to work from 10 to 27 hours per week with the large majority of part-time employees working 20 hours per week. There will be a maximum total of 1,861 employee hours worked per week in all library buildings.

LIBRARY CERTIFICATION AND STAFF TRAINING – The library will continue to require that employees mandated by the state to be certified continue to meet the appropriate certification requirements.

The library will continue to assist its employees meet requirements by continuing its program of staff training, workshop and conference attendance.

Library Managers will continue to be offered the opportunity to attend the state and regional conference of the Indiana Library Federation and to attend area counterparts meetings.

Two members of the Automation and Information Technology staff will continue to be offered the opportunity to attend the annual Internet Librarian Conference to keep informed about the latest advances in technology in libraries.

PERSONAL SERVICES

In order to both attract new employees and retain experienced employees in positions requiring certification, the library will attempt to insure it pays competitive wages. The budget draft calculates a 2% increase in wages for all library staff.

Employees who have been with the library for 6 months would be eligible for an increase in compensation in January. Other employees will receive their scheduled increase after their first 6 months of service. Please see the proposed 2016 Salary Schedule.

Benefits such as the employer's share of F.I.C.A. (Social Security) and P.E.R.F. (retirement fund) have been calculated accordingly. The ultimate impact of the Affordable Care Act on the library's health insurance premium is still unknown and the library has been informed its current health insurance provider will not offer health insurance after June 30, 2016. A replacement policy will be sought. A small life insurance benefit is available to full time employees also.

A new line for Other Employee Benefits has been budgeted to reimburse employees for tuition for library related classes.

SUPPLIES

The amount budgeted for processing supplies has been increased decreased slightly and all other supply categories have remained the same.

OTHER SERVICES AND CHARGES

The amount budgeted for professional services, online services and databases, and downloadable collections have remained the same. The line for telephone charges has been increased slightly to help provide a little extra funding for back up land lines. The line for other insurance is up and the line for repairs to buildings and structures is down. Taxes and assessments have also increased. Programming fees are up.

The largest budgetary increase is the transfer to the Library Improvement Reserve Fund. It is up from \$49,132 to \$122,793. This amount may be transferred at the end of the years or expended for other purposes as the Library Board may determine is necessary.

The library will renew membership in the Duneland Chamber of Commerce, Indiana Association of Museums and the Indiana Library Federation for 2016.

CAPITAL OUTLAYS

The proposed budget for books and non-print materials is the same as last year.

LIBRARY GOVERNANCE – The term of Michele Corazzo (School Board) will expire in 2016. Ms. Corazzo is eligible for reappointment.

SERVICE FUNCTIONS

No dramatic changes in the library's departmental service functions are expected to be made. Services are expected to be maintained at near current levels or improved if possible.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES - Administrative Services will continue to be responsible for administering and managing the library on a day-to-day basis. The department will continue to be responsible for all of the library's finances and for interpreting and enforcing library policy. The Library Director will review library policies and make recommendations for potential changes as deemed desirable.

AUDIO-VISUAL SERVICES – Audio Visual services will continue to purchase new DVD's. Additional unabridged audio books on CD will continue to be emphasized. The library will continue to subscribe to downloadable audio book, e-book, and music services for residents. New audio CD's will continue to be acquired as well as a small collection of electronic games. The department will seek to increase total audiovisual circulation by 5%.

AUTOMATION SERVICES – The library's Information Technician and staff will continue to maintain and upgrade the library's automated system. A portion of the library's old workstations will be upgraded or replaced. The library's web site will continue to be updated and developed, and additional new online subscription services will be evaluated and added if appropriate. The library's ILS (integrated library system), called Polaris was recently upgraded. An automated program registration module will also be explored. Computer classes will continue to be offered. The long term goal of the department is to be able to provide technical help during all library operating hours at Thomas.

The library hopes to be able to offer patrons the ability to pay for fines and fees with credit and debit cards before the end of 2015.

CIRCULATION SERVICES – The new Circulation Manager will continue to coordinate all circulation services for the library and schedule clerical employees on all public service desks. The Manager will also be responsible for data collection and preparing performance reports for the administration. A circulation increase of 5% will be pursued.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES – The Children's Manager will continue to provide an expanding schedule of children's programming activities including story hours and a summer reading club program. The department will seek to increase circulation and program attendance by 5%.

CUSTODIAL AND MAINTENANCE SERVICES – Two full time employees with the assistance of five part-time employees will continue to provide custodial, maintenance, and material transport services for all four library facilities.

GRAPHICS AND PUBLICITY – The Graphics Clerks will continue providing the support services of printing, preparing press releases, online postings and other employing other public relations activities. New methods for publicizing library programs and services such as greater utilization of social media will be explored and exploited.

HAGEMAN SERVICES – Branch services will continue with an emphasis on service to families and children. An increase of 5% in circulation and program attendance will be sought.

HOMEBOUND SERVICES – The library will continue to deliver materials to homebound residents and residents residing in a nursing home in the library district.

PUBLIC SERVICES – Adult and young adult programming will continue and will be targeted to expand by 5%.

REFERENCE SERVICES – The Branch Librarian will be encouraged to continue to develop her administrative and service skills and will be assigned to continue her work with young adult programming. The Reference and Adult Services Librarian will provide a full range of reference services including reference response, material reserve and interlibrary loan. The Librarian will also be largely responsible for adult programming. The Reference Department will continue to proctor tests for students when requested.

SERIALS SERVICES – The Serials Manager will continue to coordinate serials services including public access to the Internet for adults and children. Public automation classes will continue to be provided. Tax help and unemployment compensation filing assistance will continue. Programming in the new Maker Space area will be expanded.

TECHNICAL SERVICES – Technical Services will continue to provide material acquisition, processing, cataloging, filing and material repair services through the assistance of their assigned staff and volunteers.

WESTCHESTER TOWNSHIP MUSEUM – The new Museum Curator will continue to maintain a strong program of history programming, new exhibits and collection development and maintenance. History summer camp for children will continue.

MEETING ROOM SERVICES – Meeting room services at three facilities will continue to be provided to community non-profit organizations without charge.

CHESTERTON ADULT LEARNING CENTER - The Adult Learning Center will continue to be housed and operate in the Library Service Center. The library will continue to provide space, minor maintenance, utilities, and technology support to the center free of charge to insure the program will continue to be made available to area residents.

TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE – The Township Trustee will continue to rent space in the Library Service Center.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY – The Friends of the Library will continue to hold two book sales during the year, donating proceeds back to the library for programming, and staff and volunteer recognition events.

STAFF TRAINING – The library will continue to offer staff continuing education opportunities through approving staff attendance at workshops and conferences. Supervisory staff will be encouraged to attend both the annual district meeting and the annual meeting of the Indian Library Federation. Selected technical staff will be allowed to attend the annual Internet Librarian Conference. Attendance at the conferences presented by the American Library Association will depend on the location of the conference, the perceived value of the sessions, and the value of attendance for the individual employee and the library.

COOPERATIVE EFFORTS – The library will continue to work in cooperation with the Porter County Public Library and serve nonresident patrons of the library district through free reciprocal borrowing agreements. The library will also maintain its participation in the State Reciprocal Borrowing Agreement. The Director and other staff members will continue to meet with their counterpart groups and the library will continue to participate in NILBA (the Northwest Indiana Library Boards Association).

SPECIAL PROJECTS – The following special projects will be considered for 2016:

Reseal and restripe parking lots at all library owned parking lots.

Repaint the steel roof at the Library Service Center.

Replace the sidewalk in the front of the Thomas Library.

Explore the possible acquisition of higher capacity replacement shelving for the audio-visual collection.

Consider replacing the rear door at the Thomas Library.

Consider replacing the street lighting in front of the Library Service Center with fixtures that match other street lighting in the area.