

Financial Plan for the Beech Grove Public Library

Re: 2009 Budget Year

Current Situation:

The members of the Board of Trustees of the Beech Grove Public Library are aware of the plan to reduce the burden of property taxes on homeowners with the Circuit Breaker. We understand the reason for reductions, but feel this plan would have very serious negative consequences to our mission of library service and continuing education. We feel the particular application of a 10% estimated reduction from both Operating and Debt Service will cause our library to not be able to meet its obligation to serve the community with needed library services. The Board has voted to reduce library hours of operation and to reduce spending in controllable areas of personnel and books and other materials budgets. Some current charges of insurance, maintenance and safely and equipment repair (heating and air, copiers, computers, etc) will be difficult to reduce in a meaningful way.

Goals:

Debt Service Fund

1. We feel the levy to fund our current debt service should continue to be levied outside the Circuit Breaker calculations. This debt was incurred with no community objections and has allowed the community to be well served with a an addition and remodel project completed in 2002 that added more parking, more meeting rooms, more space for public computers, more space for collection development. The space is well used with high circulation, waiting lines for use of public computers and vigorous usage of community meeting room space. We make no additional charge for local groups to use this meeting room space and this allows many local, civic groups to continue to exist and serve the needs of the community. We forecast continued demand to free, meeting room space and other facility needs. We want to be able to serve as needed.

Operating Fund

2. We feel we can hit the target of a 5% reduction in our Operating Fund and continue to serve as needed. Libraries have always been called upon in times of financial hardship and we are experiencing that need. As families find it more difficult to meet their needs the library is able to assist with books for entertainment and continuing education. A collection of periodicals allows citizens to read and be informed on a variety of topics when they can no longer afford private subscriptions to such publications. Public computers in good working order are also needed for local residents who are unable to maintain a working computer with internet connectivity in their homes. Computers are used for employment applications and a wide variety of local and state government needs for unemployment and other applications.

Cost Savings

Hours of Operation have been reduced from 60 to 53 per week

Personnel: Have not replaced positions of Circulation Supervisor and Local History clerk. Reduced hours of marketing and media staff clerk from 40 to 20. Have eliminated two part-time positions. Have reduced hours by other staff members ranging from four to 15 hours per week.

Materials budges have been reduced by 30% in the 2008 budget. These reductions are in place for the 4th quarter of 2008 and for 2009. More reductions will be made as budget is known.

Adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Beech Grove Public Library.

Date: November 13, 2008