

Gardiner Public Library
152 Water Street
Gardiner, ME 04345

Date: March 24, 2005
To: Jeff Kobrock, City Manager
From: Anne Davis, Library Director
Re.: Library services to towns

Jeff,

I attended the town meetings in both Pittston and Farmingdale on Saturday, March 19. I am very pleased to report that the citizens of Pittston voted unanimously to continue their town membership with the Gardiner Public Library.

Unfortunately, the attending voters at the Farmingdale meeting voted against funding town membership for the next year. The select board did not put our request on the warrant but instead asked the town vote to set aside \$10,000 for residents to get reimbursed when they purchase a non-resident household card from a library of their choice. This proposal passed.

For your information we are asking towns to pay the following amounts:

Farmingdale:	\$13,815
Litchfield:	\$12,647
Pittston	\$17,829
Randolph	\$12,346
West Gardiner	\$23,613
TOTAL:	\$80,250

The following information may be useful for City Council:

652 identifiable Farmingdale households
652 households x \$54.00 (household card) = \$36,208

305 identifiable Litchfield households (2004 statistic)
305 households x \$54.00 (household card) = \$16,470

652 identifiable Pittston households
652 households x \$54.00 (household card) = \$35,208

429 identifiable Randolph households (2004 statistic)
429 households x \$54.00 (household card) = \$23,166

568 identifiable West Gardiner households
568 households x \$54.00 (household card) = \$30,672

TOTAL	\$141,724
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As you can see from the above information, it makes much better economic sense for towns to buy a membership to the library rather than charge individual household fees to their citizens.

Farmingdale's proposal will only leave us \$4,000 short in revenue earnings and I am sure we will make up the loss with additional sales of household cards. If other towns begin to follow suit, we still need not be too concerned. We need only sell household cards to a little more than 50% (actual number: 57%) of these households to recoup our revenues.

I will be available on 3/31/05 to discuss this with City Council and the Mayor. I am also attaching a list of current charges at other local libraries.

Sincerely,
Anne Davis
Library Director