



**GARDINER CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION SHEET**



Meeting Date	01/09/2019	Department	Library
Agenda Item	4.3 Gardiner Library Board of Trustees Proposed Library Fees		
Est. Cost	Please see attached memo outlining fees		

Background Information

Attached is the proposed library fee schedule and memo from Librarian Anne Davis. This fee structure is one that the Gardiner Library Board of Trustees approved at their meeting on 1/3/2019.

Librarian Anne Davis will be present to help facilitate the discussion.

Requested Action	'I move to approve the proposed library fee schedule as approved by the Gardiner Library Board of Trustees on 1/3/2019 and outlined in the memo from Librarian Anne Davis.'
City Manager and/or Finance Review	The City Manager recommends the above action.
Council Vote/ Action Taken	
Departmental Follow-Up	

City Clerk Use Only	1 st Reading _____	Advertised _____	EFFECTIVE DATE _____
	2 nd Reading _____	Advertised _____ w/in 15 Days	
	Final to Dept _____	Updated Book _____	Online _____



MEMO

Date: January 4, 2019
To: City Manager Christine Landes
From: Anne Davis, Director of Library and Information Services
Re.: Fees for library services

Christine,

For a few years now, Gardiner has been levying charges to our partner towns based on a percentage increase rather than basing it on any policy for charges. I have heard from many residents and from the leadership in these towns that they would prefer a fee that is based on a formula. Our traditional data for levying charges has been to use circulation numbers as that data point. This has become an inaccurate indicator as I am currently unable to identify who may be using many of our online services including usage of our Internet connection, our computers and our electronic collection.

The Gardiner Public Library Board of Trustees met multiple times over this past fall to discuss potential policies and formulas and found most proposals inadequate or too aggressive. As you know, we serve the partner towns of Farmingdale, Litchfield, Pittston, Randolph and West Gardiner and anecdotally I have heard from these selectboards that they will not be able to support high increases to the current fees. With this in mind, the Board is recommending a per capita charge so that a fair and equitable charge exists among the current towns and a fee that may be offered should other towns wish to join this successful regional service. The Board of Trustees has voted to recommend a per capita charge of \$10.00 for all towns in the MSAD#11 district and a \$7.50 per capita charge to towns outside the district. There is certainly parity in this suggestion as it recognizes that students outside our local district may not have the opportunity to visit the library as often as our local students that have access to bus routes to the library. The Board is also recommended a 3-year phase in process. Looking at the numbers and the impact some increases may have on the library article at town meetings, I would recommend a 4-year phase in and that is what the spreadsheet below indicates:

<u>Town</u>	<u>Capita</u>	<u>Fixed Cost to Balance Budget</u>	<u>Per Capita Cost</u>	<u>Proposed Charges</u>	<u>FY19 Budget</u>	<u>Diff</u>	<u>4-year Phase-in</u>
Gardiner	5800	282,030			305,008	(22,978)	
Farmingdale	2956		7.50	22,170	10,305	11,865	2,966
Litchfield	3624		7.50	27,180	20,895	6,285	1,571
Pittston	2666		10.00	26,660	23,878	2,782	696
Randolph	1772		10.00	17,720	15,145	2,575	644
West Gardiner	3474		10.00	34,740	35,269	(529)	-132
Total	20,292	282,030		128,470	410,500	0	5,745

As you can clearly see, this model does not translate to the fees that Gardiner pays, only that of the current partner towns.

I will be attending the Council meeting and would be happy to discuss these proposed fees or anything else you may wish to discuss. I would also like to thank the Gardiner Public Library Board of Trustees for the countless hours that they have spent to try and bring some sort of long-term policy that strengthens this model regional service. Thank you for considering these recommendations.