



**GARDINER CITY COUNCIL  
AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION SHEET**



Meeting Date	03/06/2024	Department	Library
Agenda Item	4e. Discussion regarding non-member town library card fees.		
Est. Cost			

<b>Background Information</b>	<p>Please see the attached documentation from Library Director Thistle.</p>
	<p>This is a discussion item only. Should an action item be necessary it will be placed on the next agenda.</p>

Requested Action	Discussion Item Only
City Manager and/or Finance Review	
Council Vote/ Action Taken	
Departmental Follow-Up	

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

Date: February 28, 2024

To: Andy Carlton, City Manager

From: Dawn Thistle, Library Director of Library

Re.: Fees for non-partner town library services & moratorium on partner towns leaving service

The Gardiner Public Library Board of Trustees met on February 21, 2024, to discuss the yearly fees paid for subscribers from non-partner towns. Discussion revolved around data collected by library director, Dawn Thistle, regarding what nearby and similarly sized libraries charge for such cards. Attached is a chart of that data. After discussion, it was determined that Gardiner Public Library's fees are already somewhat above average compared to other nearby libraries. The library currently has only a little over 100 subscribers, so the income produced is minimal. The Trustees decided to increase the fees for half-year and quarter-year subscriptions, to encourage more people to pay for the full year. They moved that: "Library subscription fees for subscribers outside of partner towns will be - \$65/year, \$45/6 months, \$25/3 months" and voted 6-0 in favor.

Board members also discussed the five-year moratorium imposed on selling nonresident library cards to residents of towns that leave the service. This was put in place in January, 2017, following the return of Farmingdale as a partner town. As you may know, in 2016 and 2017, the town of Farmingdale declined to vote on supporting the library and library staff could not sell library cards to Farmingdale residents. Although more than five years have since passed, the wording of the 2017 Council vote enacted a "five-year moratorium on issuing library cards to residents from current and/or future partner towns that leave the library partnership."

Discussion focused on clarifying the moratorium and deciding whether or not to keep it or terminate it. Trustees expressed concerns that five years was too punitive but wanted to discourage towns from leaving the partnership in the future. They decided that a moratorium will be in place going forward until the Board of Trustees vote to cease a moratorium on town's renewing their subscription if the town votes down subscribing to the GPL during their town meeting.

They moved "When a town does not renew their subscription, there is a 3-year moratorium on individual and household/family library cards" and voted 6-0 in favor.

Motioned by Stephanie Duncan, seconded by Valerie Baehr Vote: 6-0 in favor.

I will be attending the Council meeting and would be happy to discuss these proposed fees or anything else you may wish to discuss. Thank you for considering these recommendations.

Library	Towns Served	Population Served (2022)	Operating Revenue (2022)	Employees (FTE) (2022)	6mo Physical Circ. 2023 Jan-Jun	Subscription 1 Yr.	Subscription 6 mos.	Subscription 3 mos.	Cloud Library?	Hoopla?	Kanopy?	Reciprocal?
<i>Curtis Memorial Library</i>	<i>Brunswick, Harpswell</i>	<i>26,872</i>	<i>\$2,430,995</i>	<i>19.10</i>	<i>148,374</i>	<i>\$75.00</i>	<i>\$40.00</i>	<i>\$25.00</i>	<i>yes</i>		<i>yes</i>	<i>no</i>
<i>Topsham Public Library</i>	<i>Topsham</i>	<i>9,741</i>	<i>\$974,712</i>	<i>9.50</i>	<i>36,733</i>	<i>\$75.00</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>\$20.00</i>	<i>yes</i>	<i>no</i>	<i>no</i>	<i>no</i>
<b>Gardiner Public Library</b>	<b>Gardiner, Farmingdale, Litchfield, Pittston, Randolph, West Gardiner</b>	<b>21,357</b>	<b>\$609,855</b>	<b>6.25</b>	<b>29,911</b>	<b>\$65.00</b>	<b>\$32.50</b>	<b>\$16.25</b>	<b>yes</b>	<b>yes (10/mo)</b>	<b>no</b>	<b>no</b>
<i>Auburn Public Library</i>	<i>Auburn, Minot</i>	<i>26,979</i>	<i>\$1,122,207</i>	<i>16.25</i>		<i>\$60.00</i>	<i>\$30.00</i>	<i>\$15.00</i>	<i>yes</i>	<i>no</i>	<i>yes</i>	<i>yes</i>
<i>Freeport Community Library</i>	<i>Freeport</i>	<i>8,784</i>	<i>\$493,720</i>	<i>8.32</i>	<i>45,068</i>	<i>\$60.00</i>	<i>\$30.00</i>	<i>\$15.00</i>	<i>yes</i>	<i>no</i>	<i>yes</i>	<i>no</i>
<i>Lewiston Public Library</i>	<i>Lewiston</i>	<i>38,493</i>	<i>\$1,602,130</i>	<i>18.12</i>	<i>35,607</i>	<i>\$60.00</i>	<i>\$30.00</i>	<i>\$15.00</i>	<i>yes</i>	<i>no</i>	<i>yes</i>	<i>yes</i>
<i>Lithgow Public Library</i>	<i>Augusta</i>	<i>19,066</i>	<i>\$944,872</i>	<i>13.30</i>	<i>56,643</i>	<i>\$60.00</i>	<i>\$30.00</i>	<i>\$15.00</i>	<i>yes</i>	<i>yes (5/mo)</i>	<i>no</i>	<i>no</i>
<i>Rockland Public Library</i>	<i>Rockland</i>	<i>7,002</i>	<i>\$614,340</i>	<i>6.49</i>	<i>29,300</i>	<i>\$45.00</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>\$25.00</i>	<i>yes</i>	<i>yes (4/mo)</i>	<i>no</i>	<i>no</i>
<i>Charles M. Bailey Public Library</i>	<i>Winthrop</i>	<i>6,183</i>	<i>\$393,658</i>	<i>6.00</i>	<i>16,751</i>	<i>\$40.00</i>	<i>\$25.00</i>	<i>\$15.00</i>	<i>yes</i>	<i>yes</i>	<i>yes</i>	<i>no</i>
<i>Waterville Public Library</i>	<i>Waterville</i>	<i>15,828</i>	<i>\$825,738</i>	<i>12.00</i>	<i>25,419</i>	<i>\$40.00</i>	<i>\$25.00</i>	<i>\$15.00</i>	<i>yes</i>	<i>no</i>	<i>no</i>	<i>no</i>
<i>McArthur Public Library</i>	<i>Biddeford</i>	<i>22,450</i>	<i>\$1,223,845</i>	<i>14.80</i>	<i>32,618</i>	<i>\$30.00</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>yes</i>	<i>yes</i>	<i>no</i>	<i>yes</i>
<i>Windham Public Library</i>	<i>Windham</i>	<i>19,128</i>	<i>\$570,104</i>	<i>8.55</i>	<i>37,896</i>	<i>\$25.00</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>yes</i>	<i>no</i>	<i>no</i>	<i>no</i>
<i>Isaac F. Umbertine Library</i>	<i>Richmond</i>	<i>3,573</i>	<i>\$64,477</i>	<i>1.08</i>	<i>?</i>	<i>\$15.00</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>yes</i>	<i>no</i>	<i>no</i>	<i>no</i>

Italicized lines considered "Very Large" Public Libraries