



Ossining Public Library
April 2016

Dear Ossining Community,

DIRECTOR

Karen LaRocca-Fels

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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The Ossining Library Board of Trustees is pleased to share the proposed 2016-17 library budget. Our challenge was to develop a budget that was responsive to the needs of our community while also respecting the constraints of the tax cap. The budget could not exceed the cap of 1.31 percent, limiting us to an increase of \$50,004. In determining the complicated tax cap formula that restricts the budget increase, we were fortunate to have a “healthy growth factor” for this budget, which is impacted by the result of “brick and mortar” construction growth within Ossining this past year.

Our proposed budget is \$3,949,844, with \$3,862,944 to be raised by tax levy. The amount *is within the state levy cap* for the fifth consecutive year. Throughout the budget process, the Board chose to maintain staffing for direct library services to continue the level of service our patrons have come to expect. The budget does not cut any services, staff or hours. It includes funds to increase the bandwidth of the library’s Wi-Fi and computer network. It maintains strong library collections. It supports strong and responsive community programming. It provides more funds for staff development, and it allows us to keep on top of building maintenance projects. It should be noted that this budget increases the professional fees that are related to a website redesign (which will make our website easier to update as well as mobile friendly), increases in our payroll services costs, and increases the budget for legal services as we enter union contract negotiations.

As many of you know, our new director, Karen LaRocca-Fels, started in September. She has already started to engage the community in a Long Range Plan development process that will help guide the library in years to come. Our role as trustees is not only to provide for current needs with a responsible budget, but also to plan for the future. We encourage you to fill out our Long Range Plan survey which will be available in the coming weeks.

The Board is working to position the library as our “community’s living room” by providing a place for people to be continuously engaged as lifelong learners. Our proposed budget prioritizes services to our patrons and our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alice Joselow".

Alice Joselow
President, Board of Trustees

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karen LaRocca-Fels".

Karen LaRocca-Fels
Library Director