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Dear Ossining Community,

The Ossining Public Library Board of Trustees is pleased to share with you the proposed Ossining Public Library operating budget for fiscal year 2023/2024. The budget we are presenting, which represents a tax levy increase of 2%, is within the tax cap, and allows the library to maintain its operating hours and collections, as well as enhance our programs and services.

The 2023/2024 proposed budget for the next fiscal year is \$5,430,077. Of this, \$4,409,161 would be raised by tax levy. The proposed budget allows us to:

- Continue the level of library service that our community expects;
- Provide good stewardship for our library building by planning for much needed infrastructure maintenance, repairs, and improvements.

The proposed budget includes increases in funding for library collections and programs so that library staff can continue to respond to community needs. The budget also supports further improvements to our technology infrastructure, the cost of which is offset in large part by Federal E-rate Grant funding.

The proposed budget reflects our planned use of monies from the Library's Capital Fund – money that was set aside over the last few years and increased by significant grant funds -- to start the planning and design phase for needed repairs, improvements, and upgrades to the library's physical infrastructure.

The proposed budget supports the library's Long Range Strategic Plan and allows us to continue to meet the goals set forth in our plan.

The library has been able to leverage over \$450,000 in anticipated grant and donation income for the coming fiscal year. We continue to work with the Friends of the Ossining Public Library and the Ossining Library Foundation to pursue fundraising initiatives to provide a high level of library service for our community. Funds from the Friends and the Foundation provide significant support for lifelong learning initiatives, while offsetting the impact on the taxpayer.

We thank you for the opportunity to maintain the tradition of serving the Ossining community.

Any questions about the proposed budget or the budget vote and trustee election should be directed to Karen LaRocca-Fels, Library Director, Ossining Public Library, at kfels@ossininglibrary.org or 914-941-2416 ext. 333.

The budget vote, as well as the library trustee election, will be held on Tuesday, May 16, from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. in the Ossining High School Gymnasium.

For further information please go to www.ossininglibrary.org, and click on About, then Budget.

Amanda Curley

President, Board of Trustees

Karen LaRocca-Fels

Library Director