

Library Director's Report, January 14 – February 5, 2014

Budget Updates

The Board of Selectmen approved a salary change for the Town's non-union employees in the current budget and also set the requested salary increase for the upcoming fiscal year. An additional .75% was added to this year's salary account bringing the total for the year to 1.75%. For Fiscal Year 2015 the Board of Selectmen will also request a 1.75% increase. These increases are in addition to whatever step raises an employee was scheduled to receive. Our Finance Commission representative, David Blessing, has asked for a meeting to review the budget and our data on Main Library operations. Mary Beth Persons and I will meet with him.

MLA Legislative Breakfast

The Massachusetts Library Association and the Library co-sponsored one of the seventeen state-wide Legislative Breakfast meetings at the Library on January 31. Library Directors, Trustees and State Senators and Representatives from local communities came together to discuss the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners' 2014 legislative agenda. Town Administrator Mike Jaillet welcomed the group. Speakers including MBLC Commissioner Mary Ann Cluggish and MLA Legislative Committee Co-Chair Susan McAlister spoke about library funding needs. Among the legislators in attendance were Rep. Paul McMurtry, Sen. James Tmility, Rep. Denise Garlick, Rep. David Linsky and aides from Sens. Rush and Ross. The legislators emphasized the need for the library community to continue their efforts in face-to face meetings. Thanks to Mary Beth Persons, Mary Feeley, and members of the Friends of the Library for their presence.

Library Closings

Ceiling issues and snow storms cut deeply into the normal January schedule. Ninety-five hours were lost at the Main and four hours at the Branch. We were closed on January 2 and 3 due to snow. Ceiling problems caused us to close from January 9th Thursday until 5pm on Monday the 13th. We closed at 5pm Tuesday the 21st due to snow and then further ceiling repairs did not allow us to re-open until Monday the 27th at 5pm.

Ceiling Repairs

When the second floor ceiling issues were discovered, our project managers DTI directed TLT Construction to make the necessary repairs. JTC Testing, a company used earlier in the project, was brought in to monitor the work and inspect the results. In this instance, ceiling slats were re-nailed around the lowest section of the middle area above the stairwell. Other slats that were visually suspect were either re-attached to the metal clip system or nailed. In all cases the problems with the ceiling slats was determined to be faulty installation. Ladders or lifts were used to reach the ceiling. JTC issued a report to the Permanent Building Committee recommending that the Library re-open.

During the second round of repairs and inspection every ceiling slat on the first and second floors was handled by the TLT worker with DTI and JTC again overseeing the process. At this point, the PBC brought in another company, Compass Management, to help direct operations on behalf of the Town. No slats were found likely to fail, but many pieces were more securely attached to the clip system or were nailed. JTC issued daily reports on this phase and once the work was completed again recommended to the PBC that the Library could re-open.

It is my understanding that Compass Management wants several outside consultants to perform further ceiling inspection.

Coffman Payments & People's Bank Update

Under terms set by the Town Planning Board, Coffman Realty will make a payment to the Town for the Library project. This includes partial payment for paving the rear portion of the Library parking lot. Town Administrator Mike Jaillet, Town Planner Nora Loughnane and Business Development Officer Chris McKeown will settle the exact amount of the payment. It is my understanding that the occupancy permit for the Colburn is contingent upon receipt of payment.

People's Bank has their drive-through window in operation. I do not know when full bank operations will begin. I have begun an email exchange with bank officials about their employees' use of the parking lot. The 'light bleed' from outside lights on the property lines between the Bank and the Library parking lot onto the Malster property exceeds the limits set by the Planning Board. This is being addressed by Griffin Electric.

Main Library Punch List

There has been some progress in resolving the outstanding lighting issues. More of the lights are now fully operable through the software and we can now override daily settings to turn lights off in the event we close early. The Permanent Building Commission has approved the installation of a separate set of controls for the building shades. These were originally integrated with the lighting system, but have never worked properly. The cost is estimated at \$3,000.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Viti, Library Director