

From: Eric Miller <ericmiller411@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 29, 2016 10:47 PM
To: Mayor
Subject: Re: Board of Trustees email

Dear Mayor Mark,

Thank you for your leadership as mayor. I am sure the revaluation process is not easy and it is difficult to make everyone happy. Holding the meetings over the just few weeks were greatly appreciated.

On another note, I truly hope the Board will host many more meetings regarding the funding for a new library. To spend upwards of \$20 million in this environment would be extremely irresponsible. I read on [scarsdale10583](#) that the library board was going to present again soon, and tighten their budget. Numbers I saw were very small - in terms of cuts.

I feel strongly that if they truly believe they can privately raise \$7+ million, the Board of Trustees should give them a minimum threshold of \$5 million in private funds escrow before allowing any village funding to be given. I worry we start with Village funding, the Library team fails to raise any material private money and the taxpayer is left holding the bag.

An investment of this magnitude, when the village is fighting over the reassessment and a large investment into the Greenacres school is quickly approaching, should require a Village-wide referendum. A small vocal few should not be authorized to run a \$10-20 million tab. I really do not believe they will raise anywhere near what they say they can in private funds.

I appreciate your strong communication and hope all the upcoming meetings on this topic are well publicized.

Many thanks for your service.

Best,
Eric Miller
10 Overlook Rd

> From: Eric Miller <ericmiller411@gmail.com>
> Sent: Saturday, May 28, 2016 8:53 AM
> To: Mayor
> Subject: Re: Board of Trustees email

>

> Dear Mayor,

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> As I read this week's Scarsdale Inquirer, I feel my blood start to boil once again. The Scarsdale library project seems very similar to the old SCC debate. A few tirelessly active citizens with a mission think they represent the entire taxpaying village.

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> This project feels failed from the start. The amount of money they committed to raise is nowhere close to the numbers they promised and now, again, ask the Village to fund more? A \$19 million project in this economic environment is so fiscally irresponsible that we would be the laughing stock of

Westchester. Higher end homes in this community are not selling, with near record inventory. High real estate taxes are crippling many. This project should either go back to a reasonable level (i.e. Capped at \$5 million) or be shelved.

>

> At a minimum, as a Scarsdale taxpayer, I would hope we would have a village wide referendum on the issue if the village number to support goes above \$4.5 million.

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> Have a nice holiday weekend.

>

> Best,

> Eric Miller

> 10 Overlook Rd

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>> On Feb 13, 2016, at 3:06 PM, Mayor <mayor@scarsdale.com> wrote:

>>

>> Dear Mr. Miller -- Thanks for your further thoughts.

>>

>> Very truly yours, Jon Mark

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>> _____
>> From: Eric Miller <ericmiller411@gmail.com>

>> Sent: Saturday, February 13, 2016 10:00 AM

>> To: Mayor

>> Cc: Clerk's Department

>> Subject: Re: Board of Trustees email

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>> Thank you, again, Mayor Mark for your response. I unfortunately was unable to make this week's meeting that included a library funding discussion due to business travel.

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>> I read the synopsis in disbelief that a grassroots organization could believe they have the right to push the Board of Trustees to approve a \$19.5 million project bond without further community discussion and a referendum.

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>> This whole situation is not so different than when the SCC also made a strong push. For a community this size, I sincerely hope our Trustees recognize the fragile state of the economy and remain judicious on being fiscally conservative. Of course a crowd of proponents will make a strong case for the investment - but please remember (as you have) that they do NOT represent the overall community's sentiment for a project this size. The only true way to judge that is to have a well advertised referendum.

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>> I remain concerned of the sheer amount of money they are asking for. I believe they should first raise \$7.5 million and come back to the Board. Perhaps a compromise point is for this group to come back once they can evidence \$5 million in an ESCROWED account.

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>> There is no doubt that the current library can use some restoration. \$3mm? \$5mm? Maybe. \$19.5 million is similar to how the SCC grew from being an idea for an indoor pool for a few million dollars to a \$20+ million megaplex that the community rejected.

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>> I appreciate the volunteer work you and the Board take on. It is commendable and appreciated. You are empowered to do what is best for the overall community over the long run, rather than take on a massive, fiscally irresponsible project being pushed by a smaller, well-funded vocal group.

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>> I plan to be here for the next 25 years and would rather not be picking up the tax issues over the next couple of decades... We keep raising taxes and fewer young families will migrate to Scarsdale because they cannot afford to.

>>

>> Many thanks and regards,

>> Eric Miller

>> 10 Overlook Rd

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>>> -----Original Message-----

>>> From: Eric Miller [<mailto:ericmiller411@gmail.com>]

>>> Sent: Sunday, December 13, 2015 5:38 PM

>>> To: Clerk's Department <clerk@scarsdale.com>

>>> Subject: Board of Trustees email

>>>

>>> Re: Proposed \$19.5mm Library Renovation

>>> From: Eric Miller, 10 Overlook Rd

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>>> I kindly request that we have multiple public sessions to dig into the financial impact on the Village and its taxpayers having to float a \$12 million bond - and possibly more if the committee falls short of its \$7.5mm private raise. I am still having difficulty computing the sheer amount being requested to build this facility, and as we all know, construction can easily go 10-20+% above expected costs. Not so dissimilar to the SCC proposal, this project is massive relative to the Village budget and affects all of our taxpayers.

>>>

>>> Why would we not have a referendum early on in this process to gauge the taxpayers interest in such a huge project? If we allow the private raising of capital, do we still have the ability to say NO to the \$12mm ask? With 5,900 households, we would likely hear more from a vote than relying on only the interested parties whether to move forward with such an enormous library renovation project. I am confident that with a \$5-7mm budget, we could do AMAZING things at the library - rather than \$19.5mm.

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>>> Our roads are in disrepair and our sewer lines have massive expenditures ahead to fix. Our healthcare costs for our Village employees are skyrocketing. A \$19.5mm library renovation is way over the top in my view...particularly with what looks to be an anemic economic recovery in the US.

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>>> Many thanks for your service and consideration.

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>>> Respectfully submitted,

>>> Eric Miller

>>> 10 Overlook Rd, Scarsdale

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