

Donna Conkling

From: Mayor
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2016 7:54 PM
To: Donna Conkling
Cc: Steve Pappalardo; Robert Cole; David Lee (dlee.trustee@gmail.com); Bill Stern; dpekarek@verizon.net; Marc Samwick (marc.samwick@verizon.net); Carl Finger; Matt Callaghan
Subject: Fw: Referendum necessary for library project

FYI. JM

From: Mayor
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2016 7:53 PM
To: Tama Seife
Subject: Re: Referendum necessary for library project

Dear Ms. Seife -- Thank you for your email.

Very truly yours, Jon Mark

From: Tama Seife <tkseife@optonline.net>
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2016 5:04 PM
To: Mayor
Subject: Referendum necessary for library project

The Village Board of Trustee should not approve the \$18.5 million library renovation expenditure proposed by the unelected Library Board without presenting its full financial implications to and seeking the consensus of the citizens of the Village.

The project requires a borrowing of \$12 million and a debt service payment of \$1 million per year for the next 15 years. This increases the total debt of the Village from the current \$24 million to \$36 million and the debt service payment from \$2.3 million to \$3.3 million. It is totally out of proportion to the current financial situation of the Village.

The project also proposes to make the library from a place for scholarship and research into a social, a community center with expanded service for the aged, the youth and children. This will mean addition operational cost for maintenance, staffing, energy, all of which have not been taken into consideration in the proposal or anticipated by the Village Budget.

The Library Board mentioned that other Westchester Towns have libraries of similar cost. The Greenberg Library cost \$20 million. The Ossining Library cost \$16 million. The population of the Greenberg is 88,000. The population of Ossining is 37,000. The population of Scarsdale is 18,000.

The 2015-2016 Tentative Village Budget mentioned that "The increases and high costs for pension benefits, healthcare, wages and debt service cannot be sustained without reasonable increases in the Village non-property tax revenues. The only option is to tax ourselves at a greater rate or to accept a reduction of current service levels". "The limited growth in our tax base, constraints on property tax levy increases, repercussions from unfriendly State and Federal policies and continued mandates from higher levels of government will all challenge the Village's effort to remain independent. In order to successfully manage this challenge the Village must reconcile the demands for increased services from residents and the critical needs for the multi \$ million capital improvements (roads, public safety building, storm sewers, modern

fire apparatus, modernization of our three fire stations, building improvements, recreation facility improvements and the acquisition of more open space) with the amount of development and growth to be tolerated in the Village and the level of property taxes that is acceptable to residents.” “The overall recommended 2015-2016 Capital Budget totals \$4,563,000, not all of which is funded”.

In the light of all these, an \$18.5 million capital expenditure for the library is an unwarranted expense the Village can ill afford. It has to be scaled down in view of all the more pressing priorities and the financial challenges that are facing the Village in the years to come.

Tama Seife
21 Circle rd