

Q. How is the Butterfield Library funded?

A. The Butterfield Library operating budget is primarily funded by public tax dollars. Our current funding amount from the taxpayers of the Town of Philipstown is \$276,000. In addition, the Library receives approximately \$32,000 in funding from Putnam County. In addition, the Library seeks private donation.

Q. How are other libraries funded?

A. Most libraries are funded by local taxpayers. Out of the 66 Mid-Hudson Library System member libraries, 57 libraries that have secured funding through a public vote.

Q. Didn't Butterfield Library already pass a referendum to all of Philipstown?

A. Yes, in November of 2006 the Library established secure funding from the Town of Philipstown. The proposition to fund the Library was approved by a vote of 988 – 879. This vote established our base annual funding of \$276,000 per year. Prior to passing this referendum, the Town of Philipstown allocated \$125,000 per year for the Butterfield Library, however that amount was not guaranteed.

Q. Wasn't the last vote illegal?

A. No, the Butterfield Library acted fully within New York State Education Law when we asked the community to establish secure funding. The State of New York's Supreme Court reviewed all of the facts and determined that the Library had acted fully within the law. In fact, most NYS libraries hold public votes for their funding.

Q. Why do you tax Garrison when they have their own library?

A. The Library put up a proposition to establish secure funding from the Town of Philipstown. The residents of the township approved that proposition by a margin of X:X. The Butterfield Library serves all Philipstown resident equally and offers many services not offered elsewhere.

Q. Garrison is already double taxed for Butterfield, now you are going to double-tax Haldane School District?

A. Our 2006 vote, created a secure baseline amount that the Library could count on to operate. That amount comes from the entire township. Now 9 years later, we are struggling to meet the growing needs of the community. In order to continue to provide the current level of services the library needs an increase in funding.

Q. Why does the library need taxpayer's dollars?

A. The Library needs secure funding to provide the community with the resources they are currently using. The Library cannot exist on donation alone, although the Butterfield Library received approximately \$15,000 a year in donations.

Q. The Library should be paid for only by the people that use it.

A. Public libraries are not meant to operate as “members only” private institutions. The whole purpose of a library is to offer **equal** access to everyone. It's there when you need it and you may be surprised how we can help!

Q. I don't use the Butterfield Library, why should I pay?

A. A public library by definition is available to **all** members of the public.

Butterfield offers extensive services, programs, and access to over 2,321,408 items. You don't even have to walk in our doors – so much of our collection is online or if you are homebound, we'll come to you! Give us a chance to show you how to save money by using the Library's services. We have something for you!

Q. Libraries are dead – why pay for what we can get on the Internet?

A. When is the last time you visited your library? Libraries have evolved into busy community gathering places that focus on information sharing. No longer are libraries only pseudo free bookstores, they are technology hubs providing individuals with the

information they need. It is our library staff that provides the most valuable service; their knowledge in this constantly changing world.

The Haldane School District students and residents are among our heaviest users, therefore we decided to request a supplemental amount directly from those residents.

Q. Doesn't the Butterfield Library have an endowment? Why don't you use that to operate?

A. Yes, the Butterfield Library is fortunate to have a modest endowment with an approximate value of \$430,000. The Library has clear policies on how this money can be used. As outlined in the Library's Endowment Policy, this money is to be use to maintain and preserve the Library's assets and cannot be used to pay operating expenses.

The Library's main asset is the historic 1922 building. The board believes that it is their responsibility to preserve the building and without access to significant capital funding, we need to maintain the building in perpetuity using our endowment.

Q. What happens if the vote does not pass?

A. If the Library does not receive the additional funding, it will be necessary for the board of trustees to make reductions. The library has been cutting expenses over the past few years to make ends meet, but it cannot sustain the current level of services without additional funding.