

Carlie Pelfrey

From: Carlie Pelfrey
Sent: Thursday, March 28, 2019 3:41 PM
To: 'rebeccamaynard2012@yahoo.com'
Subject: Library renovations

Rebecca,

My apologies for the delayed response. I have been out of the office due to a death in the family. First, I encourage you and any media representative to attend LCPL Board of Trustees meetings. These meetings are held the second Thursday of every month at 6:00 p.m. at the library and are open to the public.

To address your questions:

It has been brought to my attention that the amount of taxes the library collects every year is comparable to what the county collects - yet the library is just one building and the county has to maintain, well the whole county. What percentage of the taxes collected goes towards the library? If citizens are paying for these taxes on multiple bills such as utilities and property taxes, how is it decided where the money goes?

The Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives provides the library district an annual tax rate notification. These rates have been computed from the certified property assessment figures provided by the Kentucky Department of Revenue for this purpose in accordance with KRS 133.180. Information on how tax rates are computed may be found at KRS 132.010. Two sets of sample rates are calculated for the library district, as required by statute. The 1990 General Assembly amended KRS 132.024 permitting a taxing district to "levy a tax rate applicable to personal property which will provide the same percentage in revenue from personal property as the percentage increases in revenue from real property." The Board of Trustees has the option of adopting a Real or Personal rate which is different from either the compensating or the 4% rates. If such rate is desired, the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives will compute the rate for the district upon written request. Regardless of the tax rate chosen by the Board of Trustees, the library provides notification to the fiscal court of the adopted rate. The Board of Trustees completes the Property Tax Rate Certification and files this document with the County Clerk. The County Clerk completes the final portion of the document.

The library district also collects revenue from motor vehicle tax rates. The motor vehicle tax rates are not dependent upon compensating rates or the 4% limitations set forth in House Bill 44 or House Bill 19. Instead, all local taxing districts that propose to tax motor vehicles can levy a rate on motor vehicles that does "not exceed the rate that could have been levied on motor vehicles by the district on January 1, 1983 assessments of motor vehicles." Thus, a local district may levy a rate up to the maximum available 1983 tax rate for motor vehicles.

Since FY 2016-2017 through the current fiscal year, the Board of Trustees has voted to accept a tax rate lower than the compensating rate.

How was it decided to renovate the library? What about the library's cash reserves? Could that money not be used for the renovations? What are the cash reserves being used for then?

In 2015, the Board of Trustees engaged a library consulting firm to assist in the creation of a five-year strategic plan for the library. For more information regarding the Lawrence County Public Library Strategic Plan 2015-2020 visit: <http://lcplky.org/site/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Lawrence-Co.-Strategic-Plan-Document-Final.pdf>. The strategic plan

specifically addresses the current facility. After several years of researching firms, the Board of Trustees voted to hire OPN Architects as the lead architectural firm for the renovation and expansion.

The renovation and expansion is funded solely by revenue accrued by the library district. The district's "cash reserves" are the result of the financial stewardship of previous library administrations.

Unlike the 2007-2009 renovation, this project will not be financed. Tax rates will not increase due to the renovation. Utilizing the fund balance for the community that provided it is of the utmost importance to the Board of Trustees.

In February 2019, County Attorney, Michael Hogan, requested the library district's financial records for the last seven years. Those records may be viewed at his office or by the library upon request. In addition, the library's financial information (audits, budgets, financial reports) are available online through the Kentucky Department for Local Government's public portal: <http://kydlgweb.ky.gov/>

What is the purpose of the renovations? Most citizens I've talked to said they feel that the library was already sufficient. (Wasn't it just built a few years ago?) How will this new renovation benefit the entire county?

Usage of library services have dramatically increased in the last decade, specifically in the last five years. Please review the 2018 Report to the Community for usage statistics: <http://lcplky.org/site/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/2018-Report-to-the-Community.pdf>

We are fortunate to have outgrown the design of the current building. After reviewing an architectural feasibility study in November 2017, the Board of Trustees learned that remodeling the interior of the building, as opposed to new construction, would solve many of the problems currently experienced (limited collection space, lack of adequate public meeting space, technology issues, limited storage space, safety issues, etc.). The only section of the building that will undergo expansion is the children's area. The expansion will provide more usable collection space for children and parents, meeting space for tutoring services, and a large programming area. Furthermore, the renovation limits the amount of "hard wall" space within the building, allowing for future growth and expansion for years to come without the need for construction.

A key vision for the project is to create a more inspiring and functional space for the whole community. Patrons will experience state-of-the art services, with a more convenient self-service circulation model, expanded children's area, the addition of over five public meeting rooms, technology upgrades, a safer facility indoors and out, accessible parking, and much more.

How will this new renovation benefit the entire county?

The library provides services to multiple facets of our community. In-house services we provide include:

- Free WiFi and Internet access
- Free public computing
- Free scanning and faxing
- Free notary services
- Free genealogy research
- Free public meeting facilities
- Copies and printing (nominal fees)
- Free circulation of books, DVDS, audio books, magazines, e-books, music CDs, video games
- Free online programs (Ancestry, resume' builder, foreign language program, online tutoring services, online educational classes)
- Free programming

Our programs provide educational and cultural opportunities that are not always available in rural, low-socioeconomic counties. We provide weekly programming including Story Hour, cooking classes, DIY classes, genealogy programming, and much more. We provide monthly classes including paint classes and special annual events like our summer reading events, pumpkin painting, egg hunts, and more. We have hosted programs from outside organizations ranging from the Kentucky Reptile Museum (in-house and at every public and private school in the county) to the Kentucky Humanities Council Chautauqua performances. Every program we provide to the community is free. We ask for donations to the Lawrence County Humane Society for our instructed painting classes and have provided numerous donations of food, cleaning supplies, and more to our local shelter. Partnerships develop strong communities and we are proud to have worked with the following organizations in our county:

The Drop – Youth Center
Lawrence County Extension Office
Lawrence County Tourism Commission
Louisa Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR)
Blaine Community Center
Blaine Elementary School
Fallsburg Elementary School
Louisa East Elementary School
Louisa West Elementary School
Lawrence County High School
Trinity Christian Academy
The Millard School
North East Head Start
Louisa East Elementary Resource Center
Lawrence County Preschool Program
Lawrence County Health Department
Community Early Childhood Council (CECC)
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
Kentucky Nutrition Education Program (KYNEP)
Lawrence County Adult Education Program
The Jordan Center
Lawrence County Senior Center
Lawrence County Humane Society
Lawrence County Genealogical and Historical Society
Mountain Comprehensive Care

Furthermore, the LCPL Summer Feed Program provides meals to children ages 18 and under during the summer months, when there is no access to school lunch. In summers 2017 and 2018 we served nearly 4,000 meals, including distributing meals on bookmobile routes. In 2018, the library became the only public library in the state of Kentucky to sponsor a Summer Feeding Program independently.

During renovation our programming and Summer Feeding schedules and locations will change. More information will be posted on our website.

Furthermore, the library services the entire county via our School Liaison who services every school in the district. We provide programming that supplements Kentucky Academic Standards as well as other instructional activities that foster learning of unique subjects. Additionally, we circulate more than 50 book kits for teacher use in classrooms throughout the district. These kits provide every child in the classroom with a book centered on a specific theme.

What about the rural areas of the county? How does this renovation benefit them if they do not have adequate means to get to the library in town? Why not build another branch in rural areas such as Blaine? If the people in these rural areas cannot get access to the newly renovated library, then does it truly benefit the entire county?

As previously referenced, the renovation provides more usable space. This space allows us to not only expand internal services, but to cultivate the outreach programs we already facilitate that reach our patrons in rural areas of our county.

For over 70 years, the LCPL has serviced patrons with the bookmobile. The bookmobile is a mobile branch that provides the same services as the physical library.

In 2018 the library launched its Homebound Services Program. This service was created to allow Lawrence County patrons access to library materials when they are unable to visit the library due to ongoing health restrictions or disabilities. This service also helps the local nursing home to provide additional recreation to their residents. Patrons who receive this service have access to the same materials as visiting the library.

Furthermore, building a branch facility in another part of the county was addressed during strategic plan development. However, after the Board of Trustees examined United States Census population projections for Lawrence County, it was decided building and operating a branch facility would not be a strategic investment of tax payer monies. [See Lawrence County Public Library Strategic Plan 2015 – 2020 for more census information].

I really hope you take the time to answer these questions for your citizens. They are waiting patiently, for now, for some explanation to unanswered questions.

Additional information and links can be found at our website: www.lcplky.org. The next Board of Trustees meeting is Thursday, April 11, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. at the library.

Carlie N. Pelfrey, Director
Lawrence County Public Library

Good day. My name is Rebecca and I work for the Levisa Lazer. I have a few questions that I hope you'll be willing to answer. The citizens of the great city of Louisa are curious about the new library renovations.

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Sincerely,
Rebecca Webb

Sent from my iPhone