

March 24, 2009

Present: Ayer, Cronin, Ezis, Mesick

Excused absence: Edelman, Newcombe

Report of the Director: March 2009

Budget:

The Board of Selectmen cut \$25K out of the book budget. That is roughly half. In order to cope with this reduction, I will be looking at all our expenditures and reducing them as well. Those resources available on-line will be reduced or eliminated: Downloadable audios, SAT prep course, Book Flix (children). These resources are not heavily used. World Book On-line Encyclopedia is heavily accessed and will remain. InfoAnytime, the 24/7 reference service, which we pay a small amount for, is being eliminated by the State Library. I am also going to have to cut back on our audiovisual products: books on CD, DVD's. I have already eliminated nearly 25 periodical titles. Both the King Fund and the Fahey Funds are both down in value so there will be less interest earned. We do have some cushion in those funds, from unspent interest from previous years. Otherwise, we will simply have fewer books and newer materials available.

Personnel:

Due to surgery Kate will be out of service for 4-8 weeks. We seem to have enough coverage for the time being.

Facility:

The Town Engineer has submitted several items for the repair of the building to the Capital Improvement Committee: new roof, energy efficient windows for the Main St. side, up and downstairs and funds to replace the faux sandstone panels that wrap around the front and west side of the building.

Policy:

I would like the Board to consider a policy to disconnect the internal speakers on the public internet access computers. When a person accesses a website most often there is a music sound bed involved that is audible to everyone. The user can access the sound by using headphones, which we sell for \$2/set. Due to public health rules, we cannot have headsets which people can share. We will have to have a policy consistent with the Children's Department. In the course of a day the noise becomes annoying to the intolerable levels and we are spending a lot of time going around telling people to turn the sound off or down.

General operations:

We are seeing a number of our current issues of magazines being defaced; covers and security tags being torn out and the person taking the periodical out of the building. This has also been occurring with some books.