

Library Director's Report October 2023

NYS Construction Aid

On September 25th, the state deposited \$32,836 into our Broadband bank account; this represents 90 percent of the grant awarded to us for our 2022 Construction Aid application. The project is for additional lighting on the outside of the building, and an upgraded security camera system with additional cameras for both the exterior and interior of the building. The lighting portion of the project is complete. The camera portion of the project should start soon. Once the entire project is completed, we'll receive the final 10 percent of the funding. Construction Aid covers 75 percent of the total estimated cost.

Eric Stormer is working on getting us a quote for a "mini-split heating and cooling system" as an alternative to replacing the other two 30-year-old rooftop HVAC units. We received Construction Aid in 2021 in the amount of \$228,122--90 percent of the \$253,469 awarded to us--to replace them. The project was estimated to cost approximately \$350,000. However, by the time we went out to bid, costs had increased to at least \$420,000 and higher, and so we decided to put the project on hold (also because we were investigating other possible locations). Eric believes the mini-splits will be less costly and will work much better at providing zoned heating and cooling for the building. This would be a big improvement, as the current units are not designed to heat and cool individual rooms; rather, they provide heating and cooling to large zones throughout the building.

HVAC Maintenance Quotes

Earlier this month I emailed the Board quotes from 4 different companies for providing HVAC maintenance services for the Library. We received quotes from our current maintenance provider, Stormer Mechanical Services, as well as from Mazza Mechanical Services, Isaac HVACR Commercial and Industrial Services, and JMI Heating & Air. Curt Wallace, the clerk of the works for our HVAC replacement project, looked at all of the quotes and offered some comments on them, which were included in the email I sent to you. He did feel all of the quotes were comparable in terms of what was covered. If we do not get any further repair bills from Stormer, we will have spent \$22,187 on the maintenance agreement (\$5,875) and repairs for the HVAC system this year. That represents 89 percent of the "Other Operations and Maintenance" budget line.

NYSLRS 2024 and 2025 Estimated/Projected Bills

The most recent estimated bill from the NYS Retirement System for 2024 is \$65,565, or \$65,097 if prepayment is made by December 15, 2023 (we always prepay). The estimate is calculated using 2022 reported salaries. The estimate we received last year when preparing the 2023 budget was \$60,244, or \$59,814 if prepaid, so it ended up coming in higher than anticipated (due in part to pay increases received by staff in 2022). We had budgeted \$65,000, based on the previous year's bill, so we are in good shape and will only have to move a small amount of money from another budget line to cover the additional \$97.

In September, we received a projected estimate of the 2025 bill in the amount of \$81,097 (\$80,518 if paid in December 2024), a substantial increase over what we budgeted based on the

2023 estimate of \$60,244/\$59,814 which was all we had to go on when we were working on the 2024 budget in early 2023.

Friends of the Library

Once again, the Friends will be participating in Giving Tuesday this year, which will take place on November 28th. They are exploring ideas for this year's theme, which may be literacy programming done by the Library, as well as their own literacy programs such as Born to Read. They have been extremely successful the past two years, raising well over \$4,000 on each of those Giving Tuesdays!

They purchased cider and donuts for the Children's department's October Halloween events. They provide this annually.

The Friends scheduled the fall wine tasting fundraiser for Friday, September 6, 2024, so mark your calendars!

News from the Library

The CCLS Annual Meeting took place on Wednesday, October 11th. Assistant Director Kim Mahar presented at a session on our experiences and response to the First Amendment audits that took place at OPL. Her presentation was excellent, and we received positive feedback from other directors. I'm thankful she was able to do this and I'm sure it will be a big help to other CCLS libraries who face the possibility of being visited by auditors in the future.

Head of IT Chad Taylor and Library Assistant Amy Chaffee were invited to set up a table in the "Gadget Gallery" at WNYLRC's annual Unconference on October 13th, which was held at BECPL's main downtown library this year. OPL represented CCLS at the conference. They brought along our mini document camera, 2 laptops with video-production software, and the button maker with sample buttons we've made for our teen patrons. It is nice that WNYLRC consistently recognizes OPL as an important library in our system and across the region.

On September 29th, after receiving the October newsletter with the story about the O'Connell plaque, I received a very nice email from Kevin O'Connell. He noted that it was a "nice piece in the Newsletter," and stated "I am happy with all of this and the fact that the endowment is permanent and that it will only grow in size. Your personal touch had a lot to do with this. It has been a pleasure dealing with you." I am so pleased with the strong working relationship we have with Kevin and his wife Susan, and I agree it is a pleasure working with them as well. They hope to be up for a visit to the Library next summer. That will be a good opportunity to show them the upgrades we are working on and perhaps share ideas about our hoped-for expansion.