

Abington Public Library

May 28, 2009

FY10 Further Budget Reduction Impact Statement

Reducing the Library budget by an additional \$19,971 from the Town Manager's budget of April 29, 2009 will severely impact the provision of library services to the residents of Abington

Municipal Appropriation Requirement

The Board of Library Commissioners sets a Municipal Appropriation Requirement <MAR> for each municipality. We have calculated Abington's MAR for FY10 at \$433,433; the reduction results in a library budget which totals \$60,382 less than this amount. The Board of Library Trustees is aware that due to the unprecedented nature of the current fiscal crisis it will be necessary to request a waiver from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners for failure to meet the MAR. One step of the waiver process requires a statement from a municipal official "providing evidence that any reduction to the library budget is not disproportionate relative to changes in other municipal departments and the overall municipal budget."

http://mblc.state.ma.us/grants/state_aid/policies/sa_mar_waiver_policy2010.php)

If a waiver is not granted the Library will not be certified and Abington residents will be denied borrowing privileges from other libraries. During 2008, Abington residents borrowed 13,004 items from other Old Colony Library Network members. Interlibrary Loans of this type may be denied by other libraries and Abington residents will be unable to borrow books directly from other libraries.

The Abington Public Library received \$22,178 in State Aid during FY08 and also received \$23,868 in State Aid for FY09. This money will not be awarded for FY10 if the Library is not certified.

Salary Reduction

The further Finance Committee reduction of \$12,387 in the Library salary line will most likely eliminate a 17.5 hour per week Library Assistant. The loss of this position, in conjunction with the prior cuts, will result in a loss of open hours, as the duties of this position consist of front-line circulation tasks. Any loss in open hours will place the Library below the minimum of 50 hours per week required for state aid certification. An alternative to eliminating this position is to reduce the hours for this position and for the Reference Librarian. The impact of this scenario would be the same. In both cases Reference, Children's and Adult services, as well as library administration will be severely reduced. The adoption of either of these scenarios, or the creation of a different staffing reduction configuration, is a policy decision which will be made by the Board of Library Trustees.

Expense Reduction

The additional \$7,584 reduction in the Library expense line will of necessity be taken from books and materials because the budget we submitted left no other expenses to cut. This reduction will further decrease our materials expenditures below the 15% required for state aid certification. Loss of certification will result in the loss of state aid money for FY10 and in the loss of reciprocal borrowing privileges from other public libraries for Abington residents.

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Abington Public Library