

Topic	Facts from the Library and Library Board	Opinions of Concerned Taxpayers
Transparency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We began communicating about the new library project in November 2018. The library shared the space study and Community Survey prepared/distributed by Causewave Community Partners. Board members are elected in accordance with the bylaws and follow all legalities set forth by New York State. Taxpayers approve or reject library taxes. All board meetings are open to the public and minutes are available on the library's website. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Today may be the first you have heard of this issue Board will not share information Board is not elected by taxpayers yet have the power to tax the community
Costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The library released the final cost figure to the public within one week of receipt. The Guaranteed Maximum Price will be received in July. If the GMP comes in higher, the Board is committed to cutting costs to keep the project total at \$16.6 million. Inflation and rising construction costs have already been estimated in the final cost of the project, and along with a substantial contingency, assuring the final price will not exceed \$16.6 million. Architects design a library based on the specified needs – they do not set the price. The community requested a coffee shop. Space has been allocated accordingly. This flexible space can be repurposed later if needed. A professional commercial real estate broker states average retail rental space is between \$12 - \$15 per sq. ft. The coffee shop will pay rent to the library. There is no \$600,000 coffee shop that will take 100 years to pay off. Board consulted several local banks; CNB will allow us to prepay principal and reduce interest. Bonds were considered, but rejected because we couldn't prepay principal. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cost estimate is OLD & final costs not known Costs will be impacted by high inflation Design process was a blank slate Features include a \$600,000 coffee shop, which will take 100 yrs to pay off One bank bid....State bonds not considered
Tax impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do the math for your own household in order to make an informed decision. The increase would be \$55 per year or \$4.58 per month for every \$100,000 of assessed value. Due to inflation, a library built in 2005 for a particular cost is not comparable to the costs of the proposed VFL. If a neighboring town were to build a new library right now, they would see the same costs as this library. Before taxpayer approval, the library has raised \$265,000. Some donors prefer to wait until after the vote to commit. Fundraising will continue throughout this project. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tax rate increases from \$.27 to \$.82 per \$1,000 of assessed value Tax is more than Pittsford. Taxpayers asked to fund 98% of total, only 2% fundraised.
Process Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Causewave Community Partners, experts in their field, produced a reliable, scientific survey distributed to anonymous users. A survey conducted in 2019 couldn't reference a cost received in 2022. Since 2017, the Board has been conducting surveys, getting professional input and studies of locations to get to this point. However, it has not spent \$600,000. Multiple advertised votes requesting funds for the new library project were approved by taxpayers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-scientific survey Stickers on a poster board without showing a cost Survey didn't ask "Would you pay 16.6M for this bigger library and pay three times what you pay in taxes?" Spent \$600,000 in taxpayer money, \$100k just weeks before the vote for construction.
Space Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The space study was shared and is available on our website and social media. In 2019 (pre-COVID), between 400-500 people per weekday visited the library, our meeting rooms were used over 400 times for non-library meetings, and 13,428 people attended 890 programs and events. In 2021, over 199,000 items were checked out, over 8,000 people attended 675 programs, and our public computers were used over 3,000 times. In both years, many community groups were turned away due to overbooked meeting space. The library needs more space for public computers, tutoring spaces, expanded program offerings, community meetings, quiet study, and reading spaces, as well as more books and materials. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board won't release "space study" Public information shows library visits are down in the last 10 years. Meeting room usage in 2019 was 40% yet going from 2 to 7 meeting rooms. Key reason for a new library was to get "more space" for books but getting only 25% more for \$16.6M
Options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☒If the May 17, 2022 vote does not pass, the two purchase contracts (with the seller of the new location, and the buyer for the current location) will expire. There will not be another vote in 2023, because the entire search process would have to begin again. The need for 24,000 square feet was derived by experts and is unlikely to change. Eliminating a few thousand square feet will not significantly cut the price. Building in phases puts taxpayers at risk for even more inflation and economic uncertainty. A professional fundraising feasibility study completed in January 2021 showed a goal of raising \$2 million to be unrealistic. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Taxpayers are being told to take it or leave it; the Board is unwilling to consider any other options Other options: Less grand building, build in phases, create a capital campaign to reach 50% funding
Ballot Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The library worked with an attorney, the bank, and school district to ensure the ballot language followed all legal requirements while making it as accessible as possible. This proposed increase is limited to this specific project and the operating budget will be reevaluated after the 20 year mortgage is paid off. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meets the bare minimum legally required Commits us to \$2.5M forever