



CLINTON COMMUNITY LIBRARY

1215 Centre Road, Rhinebeck NY 12572
(845) 266-5530 | www.clintoncommunitylibrary.org

October 12, 2021

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Dear Town of Clinton Supervisor and Councilmembers,

The Clinton Community Library Trustees have reviewed the lease agreement and we are disappointed that after 45 years of a one dollar per annum fee, the Town Board is now requesting monthly payments of \$150.00. The Library Trustees are formally requesting that the Town Board restore the fee in the lease agreement to one dollar per year and not increase the fee to \$1,800 per year.

As the Town Board knows, the majority of the Library's funding comes from a 414 referendum that was passed with overwhelming support by the Town of Clinton residents in 2017. Since the 2017 referendum, the library has seen:

- a 76% increase in library visits and 52% increase in circulation and use of materials
- a 134% increase in the number of adults served by library programs, and adult programming expanded by 82%
- a 93% increase in children served by programs

Unlike the Town Board, the library cannot decide to increase its own funding. Rather, we rely on either voluntary increases from the Town Board or a direct referendum from residents of the town. Funding from the Town has remained flat since 2017, even though demands for library services have only increased. The Library is now facing a budget shortfall in the coming years due to an expiring grant and mandatory minimum wage increases, and imposing an additional \$1,800 per year will only exacerbate that budget shortfall.

The Library is a non-profit organization devoted to the needs of the community and has served the residents of this Town in exceptional fashion. The Library has been an excellent steward of the facility and has continually made upgrades to the Library premises at no cost to the Town.

45 years ago, the Town and the Library recognized their interdependence. In the same spirit of collaboration and cooperation, we the Library Trustees urge the members of the Town Board to continue to honor the fee structure as set forth in the original lease agreement.

Respectfully,

The Clinton Community Library Board of Trustees