

MEMORANDUM:

To: Winnefox Library System Trustees
From: Mark Arend, Assistant Director
Subject: Report of System activities
Date: 18 July 2007

The following is an update of activities since our last meeting. I would be happy to provide further details at our meeting, or feel free to give me a call or send an email in advance.

2008 County Funding: Library directors in all five counties are preparing budget requests, though none have been submitted as of this writing. It's too early in the county budget process to tell how funding will be next year, indications are for another tight budget season. Because local budgets are to a certain extent determined by the state budget I expect county budgets will be set later than usual this year.

Act 420 (Library reimbursement payments across county lines): I have prepared a separate report showing which libraries are billing which counties, and for how much.

Legislative Update: As you know from the papers, the Assembly and Senate versions of the budget are quite different. Library system funding, BadgerLink, and funding for statewide library service contracts are the same in both versions. There are, however, a few differences which may affect libraries:

- The Senate's budget proposal exempts county payments to libraries in other counties from levy limits. The Assembly's proposal does not contain this exemption.
- The Senate's budget proposal would allow local governments to increase the tax levy by 4% or new construction, whichever is greater. The Assembly's proposal limits increases to new construction only. The current limit is 2 % or new construction, whichever is greater.
- There are two provisions in the Assembly's proposal which would reduce the amount of money going to the Universal Service Fund. The USF helps pay for telecommunications and internet access in rural and poor areas of the state and is funded by a tax on telecommunications companies. About a third of library system funding comes from the USF.
- Currently, to be a member of a library system, a municipality or county must fund libraries at a rate no lower than the average of the previous three years. This is known as Maintenance of Effort (MOE). The Assembly's proposal would eliminate this provision.
- Under current law, 10% of state fines and forfeitures are retained by counties. The remainder is deposited in the Common School Fund and is used for school library media centers. The Assembly's proposal would allow counties to retain:
(a) 20% of state fines and forfeitures; and (b) 30% of state fines and forfeitures

collected within one year of the effective date of the provision that were imposed at least 180 days before the effective date of the provision.

There have been several bills introduced recently effecting libraries.

- Two identical bills, SB-214 and AB-433 would change the library confidentiality law to allow a library to release 'records produced by a surveillance device' to law enforcement officials investigating criminal conduct alleged to have occurred at the library.
- AB-420 (not to be confused with *Act 420* which was passed by the Legislature last year) would add an additional method for calculating a municipality's exemption from the county library tax. Under current law, a municipality can exempt from the county library tax if the municipality levies a tax for public library services at a rate that is equal to or greater than the county library tax rate. This bill would allow a municipality to exempt from the county library tax if the municipality supports the library at no less than the average of the last 3 years.

There has been no further action on bills which I reported on in my May report:

- **SB-1** which would give library boards an additional option for investing gifts and donations.
- **AB-141** would prohibit use of radio frequency identification (RFID) tags in documents.
- Proposed Constitution amendments **AJR-27 & AJR 34** which would limit the use of segregated funds, including the Universal Service Fund.

Library Director Changes: Bev Haag has been hired as the director of the Oakfield Public Library. Her first day is the 25th.

Staff News: Once again, our Graphic Artist Renee Miller has received awards from the American Library Association for her work. She won a *Best of Show* award for materials designed for Oshkosh Public Library's 2005 teen summer program *Express Yourself* and another for a booklist designed for Fond du Lac Public Library. Copies of the certificates are included in the board packet. Print shop assistant Dylan Guzman has resigned. Jeff Berger, the other print shop assistant has graduated but will be working through the summer while deciding his future school plans. Both were placed through a work training program at Oshkosh West High School. Once school starts in the fall Renee will be inquiring about replacements.

Andree Chamberlain has been hired as a WCTS Clerk/Page