



May 11, 2023

To the Board of Selectmen:

Our understanding of the current status of the library's FY 2023/24 budget proposal is that the BoS is requesting a reduction of \$35,000 from what we proposed in January.

Such a reduction would significantly impact the library's ability to deliver on its expanding role in the community.

The salient points from our January 24 budget presentation are as follows:

- Our budget proposal includes an almost 10% increase in development revenues which are dependent entirely on private donations. To increase development revenues further to cover a reduction in the Town Grant is not realistic.
- The requested increase in the Town budget includes the addition of a single FTE bringing the total number of FTEs employed by the library to 29 in FY 2024 - still two short of the total in 2019.
- The modest increase of 1 FTE is required by an expansion in programming combined with the library's assumption of responsibility for managing the Brubeck archive. (It is worth noting that the Archive is an important addition to the town, bringing visitors to Wilton from around the world.)
- The rationale for the requested increase of 2.9% in the Town Grant, aside from the addition of a single FTE, is driven by substantial increases in utilities, technology and supplies, and salaries.
- Finally, our recently completed Strategic Plan has identified a pressing need to reinforce the library's role as the cultural and intellectual center of Wilton by ensuring that we reach out to an increasingly diverse community by offering programs that are relevant to all its constituents.

We hope these points will resonate with the BoS. The library makes a unique contribution to Wilton and provides excellent value. In this context it is worth noting that the library achieved a Charity Navigator Score of 100% for Accountability and Finance last year and is habitually ranked in the top tier for its programs to management expense ratio by the auditors.

We look forward to discussing next year's WLA budget with the BoS at its meeting on May 16.

Respectfully,

Rob Sanders, President, Wilton Library Association
Mike Boswood, Treasurer, Wilton Library Association
Caroline Mandler, Executive Director, Wilton Library Association