Becoming a School District Public Library—Vote Yes To Take a Significant Step Forward

On Tuesday, May 17th, the voters of the Long Lake Central School District will have the ability to stabilize the Long Lake Library’s funding by voting to make the Library a school district public library.

Responding to a call from Town Supervisor Clark Seaman to take this step forward, the Library’s board and the board of the Friends of the Long Lake Library have been working to educate the public about the advantages of becoming a funding district library.

Voting yes this year means the community will have the opportunity to vote on the Library’s annual budget and will get to elect the Library’s Board of Trustees on an on-going basis. Stable funding for the Library means it will be able to continue to provide programs and services to meet the demands of our community.

Currently, the Library receives funding from a number of sources. The Town provides close to $40,000 in direct appropriations and in-kind services. While a new tax will be instituted, that cost will be offset because, according to Supervisor Seaman, “the town will be cutting its other expenditures by the amount it is currently funding the Library.”

“Becoming a school district public library is key to our future as a library,” said Jordan Horstein, President of the Library’s Board of Trustees. “This is an opportunity for school district residents to each give a little to our entire community and get a lot—a library with stable funding that will be able to serve our community for years to come.”

The cost to Long Lake Central School District taxpayers will be $19,215/100,000 of assessed value. This will raise approximately $130,000 to fund the library’s programs and services. $130,000 accounts for 1% of all the property taxes paid in the school district.

If the voters say no to establishing a school district public library, the Library will be forced to:

- Reduce hours to 20/week
- Drastically cut the new materials budget
- Cut programming including Story Time and Summer Reading
- Eliminate needed technology upgrades