

**George H. Stowell Free Library
2019**

We met in January of 2020 to review our 2019 expenditures and develop a budget for 2020. Our expenses for 2019 included unanticipated costs for building repairs. The deteriorating bricks under one of the chimney caps were replaced (\$875), and the failing combustion chamber of the oil furnace was replaced (\$957.93). We ended the year with a checkbook balance of \$489.82.

Our anticipated expenses for 2020 include a payroll increase and funding for technology as we move toward automation to provide electronic access to the library's collection for our patrons. Our estimated income for 2020 includes our end-of-the year balance, revenues from unspent 2019 payroll, interest, book fines, and the ongoing book sale in addition to our appropriation request of \$20,683, an amount that is \$2 less than last year's request.

A March, 2019, Town Meeting vote raised and appropriated funds for an architectural study for the design of a handicap access, a bathroom, and a meeting room between the library building and the historical society building. UK Architects of Hanover was hired to complete the study. They drew several designs that were posted on the library's website and were presented to a joint meeting of the library trustees and historical society members. After discussion as to the pros and cons of each design, the configuration with an entrance into the library's children's room was chosen as the best option. Although the library does not have enough land for construction of a septic system, the owner of adjacent land has offered to sell a piece of his property to the town. Below is a timeline of our next steps for 2020:

- research the placement of a well,
- contact the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services for help determining the size of the septic system,
- determine the amount of land needed,
- negotiate a purchase price with the landowner,
- raise and appropriate funds from the library's capital reserve fund at 2021 Town Meeting for the purchase of the land,
- raise and appropriate funds from the library's capital reserve fund at 2021 Town Meeting for the design and build of the septic system,
- raise and appropriate funds from the library's capital reserve fund at 2021 Town Meeting for the drilling of an artesian well.

Once these steps have been completed, we will move forward with a final design.

Respectfully submitted,

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