

**LINCOLN COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES
LIBBY BRANCH & ZOOM
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2024**

Members Present: Barb Hvizdak, Laura Finley, Alyssa Ramirez (Director LCL)

For reference, discussed typical budget timeline:

March, April, May – County puts out request for departments to submit budget

June – County meets with department heads; approves preliminary budgets

August – State releases mill value to Counties

September – based on actual mill value adjustments are made to balance budget; final approval.

2024-25 County has agreed to fund at unknown level; 2025-26 LCL District responsible

Alyssa shared that the 1998 budget was about \$360k vs 2024 budget of about \$450k. Adjusting for inflation '24 budget would be well over \$600k. Questions to answer: How does the library compare to other departments over the same time period? Was there a year/period of significant decline, i.e. transition btw directors in '17?

For reference, 2014-Ramirez hired; 2016 mid-year-promoted from Branch Manager to Director; 2017-first full year working with budget she developed. Did budget cuts start before or after she became director? Is it gender related?

Laura asked for clarification of fixed costs. Alyssa identified them as line items 110, 140, 148. Also pointed out that changes to 148 have to be made by the County, not the library.

Alyssa recommended submitting the original 2023-24 budget in May, approx. \$493k

Alyssa noted Libby needs to maintain 40 public service hours to maintain State Aid, \$14,000 in '23-24

- Is it worth it for \$14k?
- LCL could request an exemption from MSL

Discussion: If cuts include personnel or terms of employment, how does LCL reduce original benefits? We need HR to advise on what and how to make changes, i.e. FT to PT

Laura informed committee a donation of \$10k was received toward funding the LCL District campaign.

Alyssa stated public comments related to the pending Resolution will be available for viewing after March 1st.

Meeting Adjourned: Hvizdak made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:15pm, seconded by Finley; approved.