

Rebekkah Smith Aldrich  
Executive Director  
Mid-Hudson Library System  
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

March 13, 2020

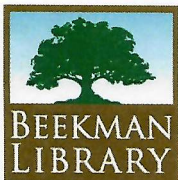
Dear Ms. Aldrich:

As you know on October 28, 2019, the Beekman Library Board of Trustees approved the submission of a claim of serious inequities and hardship resulting from services to the residents of the Town of Union Vale. After this request was submitted, we continued communication with the Town of Union Vale Supervisor in the hopes of reaching an agreement and avoiding the need for restrictions. Unfortunately, that did not happen. At this time, we would like to renew our claim of serious inequities and hardship resulting from services to the residents and request that restrictions be implemented as soon as possible.

While I have included copies of our previous request and all of the communications between the libraries and the Town Supervisor since January 2020 for your review, I would like to reiterate that

1. More than 5% of our total circulation based on a three-year average is to residents of this town which does not provide equitable funding for library services and
2. We have spent the past nine months attempting to renew our contract with the Town of Union Vale to no avail, requesting significantly less than the definition of "equitable funding" found in the MHLS Free Direct Access Plan. The 2019 contract was for \$76,407, 30% of the amount required by regulation

The Beekman Library Board of Trustees is requesting the Mid-Hudson Library System verify the Board's claim of serious inequities and hardship and proceed with developing a plan for restrictions and remedies. As stated in the *Mid-Hudson Library System Direct Access Plan*, the Beekman Library Board of Trustees recognizes the plan for restrictions and remedies requires the approval of the MHLS Board of Trustees and that you will need to confer with the MHLS Directors Association .



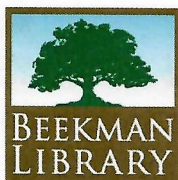
11 TOWN CENTER BLVD  
HOPEWELL JCT. N.Y. 12533  
845-724-3414  
WWW.BEEKMANLIBRARY.ORG

If you have any questions or concerns about this request please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Carol Fortier, Director



11 TOWN CENTER BLVD  
HOPEWELL JCT. N.Y. 12533  
845-724-3414  
[WWW.BEEKMANLIBRARY.ORG](http://WWW.BEEKMANLIBRARY.ORG)





Carol Fortier &lt;cfortier@beekmanlibrary.org&gt;

**RE: 2020 Contract**

10 messages

**Betsy Maas** <supervisor@unionvaleny.us>

Thu, Dec 19, 2019 at 4:00 PM

To: Rebekkah Smith Aldrich &lt;rsmith@midhudson.org&gt;

Cc: councilmanjohnwelsh@gmail.com, Councilman David McMorris <mcmorris.uvny@gmail.com>, Steve Frazier <councilmanfrazier@gmail.com>, Councilwoman Corrina Kelley <corrinakelley2015@gmail.com>, Laurie Shedrick <lshedrick@midhudson.org>, Casey Conlin <cconlin@midhudson.org>, C Fortier <cfortier@beekmanlibrary.org>, M DeBellis <mdebellis@laglib.org>, Library Director <director@millbrooklibrary.org>, Library Director <director@doverlib.org>, Bitsy Scigliano <bscigliano@beekmanlibrary.org>, bschiban@gmail.com, Kerry Weller <boardpresident@millbrooklibrary.org>, Erin Hawks <boardchair@laglib.org>

It is premature to renew those claims. We are paid up until 12/31.

For the record, we are completely opposed to any resident being put on restriction and feel that threatening restriction is irresponsible. We have offered payment it was just rejected. Clearly, we are ready, willing and able to negotiate.

Rebekkah, there is nothing personal about this but your being in the middle has hurt all efforts. Your inclusion and insistence in this approach is anti-competitive and problematic because your inclusion makes the System responsible for "violating the principles of equitable access at the core of library services".

We are requesting an arrangement that mirrors what all the other unserved towns in NY State have. If this *contracting for services* is equitable in every other unserved town in NY, why is not equitable here?

I am reading with great interest the *American Library Association's* fight with Macmillan Publishing over the fact that Macmillan is withholding e-book "best sellers" from libraries for 8 weeks. In an effort to help determine how their revenue can be preserved when so many e-books are distributed through libraries, the CEO is asking if large amounts of e-books in libraries cannibalizes his business. Admittedly, he is unsure of the answer but his hope is that, similar to the movie business, the good PR surrounding a new "best seller" will enhance sales. After 8 weeks, the libraries can have at them.

Well, the ALA, as you well know, refers to this move as an "embargo". They started a petition and garnered over 200K signatures. They picketed in front of Macmillan's Headquarters on Broadway. Library Directors all around the country are angry. San Francisco City Librarian said "...the embargo impacts libraries' central mission of ensuring access to information and content for all".

The ALA sent a letter in which they say that the ALA "... has consistently opposed any effort to delay or deny library access..."

Former ALA President, Sari Feldman says, "the ALA may pursue legislative action against the restrictions."

We read this and think, how interesting that the libraries find it unfair to have any restrictions on what they want calling it an embargo but you are leading an effort to put our residents on restriction and threaten to do so 6 months before the contract is up because you want more money....kind of like CEO John Sargent of Macmillan.

Do you see the hypocrisy here?

We want a local relationship. We want to contract for services. We want to follow the suggestions as delivered by the UV library steering committee (which is the normal way of handling acquiring services in NY state) - payments per card. We are open to other suggestions but we need to talk with our respective libraries to find something mutually beneficial.

Please consider removing yourself from this conversation so progress can be made. We would be extremely happy to meet with the libraries at any time, however, as we want to negotiate and we want to pay for our residents.

Everyone interested knows how to reach us and we look forward to speaking if and when any library representative is ready.



Happy Holidays everyone.

- Betsy Maas

Supervisor Betsy Maas

(845) 724-5600 ext. 110 (office)

Town of Union Vale

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**From:** Rebekkah Smith Aldrich [mailto:[rsmith@midhudson.org](mailto:rsmith@midhudson.org)]

**Sent:** Wednesday, December 18, 2019 2:27 PM

**To:** Betsy Maas <[supervisor@unionvaleny.us](mailto:supervisor@unionvaleny.us)>

**Cc:** [councilmanjohnwelsh@gmail.com](mailto:councilmanjohnwelsh@gmail.com); 'Councilman David McMorris' <[mcmorris.uvny@gmail.com](mailto:mcmorris.uvny@gmail.com)>; 'Steve Frazier' <[councilmanfrazier@gmail.com](mailto:councilmanfrazier@gmail.com)>; 'Councilwoman Corrina Kelley' <[corrinakelley2015@gmail.com](mailto:corrinakelley2015@gmail.com)>; Laurie Shedrick <[lshedrick@midhudson.org](mailto:lshedrick@midhudson.org)>; Casey Conlin <[cconlin@midhudson.org](mailto:cconlin@midhudson.org)>; C Fortier <[cfortier@beekmanlibrary.org](mailto:cfortier@beekmanlibrary.org)>; M DeBellis <[mdebells@laglib.org](mailto:mdebells@laglib.org)>; Library Director <[director@millbrooklibrary.org](mailto:director@millbrooklibrary.org)>; Library Director <[director@doverlib.org](mailto:director@doverlib.org)>; 'Bitsy Scigliano' <[bscigliano@beekmanlibrary.org](mailto:bscigliano@beekmanlibrary.org)>; [bschiban@gmail.com](mailto:bschiban@gmail.com); 'Kerry Weller' <[boardpresident@millbrooklibrary.org](mailto:boardpresident@millbrooklibrary.org)>; 'Erin Hawks' <[boardchair@laglib.org](mailto:boardchair@laglib.org)>

**Subject:** Re: 2020 Contract

Betsy,

The libraries renewed their claims due to multiple statements you have provided that the town does not plan to continue the contract with MHLS for 2020-2021. The basis provided for their claims was as follows:

1. The Town of Union Vale is unserved by a chartered public library and provides less than the average funding for public library services provided by contract with neighboring community libraries.
2. More than 5% of the total circulation of library materials by the Beekman Library and by the Millbrook Library have been provided to the residents of the Town of Union Vale.
3. Under the *Mid-Hudson Library System Direct Access Plan*, a library may claim "serious inequities and hardships" due to non-residents making excessive use of a libraries' resources that affects the libraries' ability to provide direct and on-site access to their residents.

Rebekkah

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**From:** Betsy Maas <[supervisor@unionvaleny.us](mailto:supervisor@unionvaleny.us)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, December 17, 2019 4:49 PM

**To:** Rebekkah Smith Aldrich <[rsmith@midhudson.org](mailto:rsmith@midhudson.org)>

**Cc:** [councilmanjohnwelsh@gmail.com](mailto:councilmanjohnwelsh@gmail.com) <[councilmanjohnwelsh@gmail.com](mailto:councilmanjohnwelsh@gmail.com)>; 'Councilman David McMorris' <[mcmorris.uvny@gmail.com](mailto:mcmorris.uvny@gmail.com)>; 'Steve Frazier' <[councilmanfrazier@gmail.com](mailto:councilmanfrazier@gmail.com)>; 'Councilwoman Corrina Kelley' <[corrinakelley2015@gmail.com](mailto:corrinakelley2015@gmail.com)>; Laurie Shedrick <[lshedrick@midhudson.org](mailto:lshedrick@midhudson.org)>; Casey Conlin <[cconlin@midhudson.org](mailto:cconlin@midhudson.org)>; C Fortier <[cfortier@beekmanlibrary.org](mailto:cfortier@beekmanlibrary.org)>; M DeBellis <[mdebells@laglib.org](mailto:mdebells@laglib.org)>; Library Director <[director@millbrooklibrary.org](mailto:director@millbrooklibrary.org)>; Library Director <[director@doverlib.org](mailto:director@doverlib.org)>; 'Bitsy Scigliano' <[bscigliano@beekmanlibrary.org](mailto:bscigliano@beekmanlibrary.org)>; [bschiban@gmail.com](mailto:bschiban@gmail.com) <[bschiban@gmail.com](mailto:bschiban@gmail.com)>; 'Kerry Weller' <[boardpresident@millbrooklibrary.org](mailto:boardpresident@millbrooklibrary.org)>; 'Erin Hawks' <[boardchair@laglib.org](mailto:boardchair@laglib.org)>

**Subject:** RE: 2020 Contract

Rebekkah,

How in the world could you have received formal claims of "serious inequities and hardship" from Beekman and Millbrook resulting from services to the residents of Union Vale when we paid you \$76,407 for 2019?



Supervisor Betsy Maas

(845) 724-5600 ext. 110 (office)

(845) 223-7335 (mobile)

Town of Union Vale

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**From:** Rebekkah Smith Aldrich [mailto:[rsmith@midhudson.org](mailto:rsmith@midhudson.org)]

**Sent:** Tuesday, December 17, 2019 1:58 PM

**To:** Betsy Maas <[supervisor@unionvaleny.us](mailto:supervisor@unionvaleny.us)>

**Cc:** [councilmanjohnwelsh@gmail.com](mailto:councilmanjohnwelsh@gmail.com); 'Councilman David McMorris' <[mcmorris.uvny@gmail.com](mailto:mcmorris.uvny@gmail.com)>; 'Steve Frazier' <[councilmanfrazier@gmail.com](mailto:councilmanfrazier@gmail.com)>; 'Councilwoman Corrina Kelley' <[corrinakelley2015@gmail.com](mailto:corrinakelley2015@gmail.com)>; Laurie Shedrick <[lshedrick@midhudson.org](mailto:lshedrick@midhudson.org)>; Casey Conlin <[cconlin@midhudson.org](mailto:cconlin@midhudson.org)>; C Fortier <[cfortier@beekmanlibrary.org](mailto:cfortier@beekmanlibrary.org)>; M DeBellis <[mdebellis@laglib.org](mailto:mdebellis@laglib.org)>; Library Director <[director@millbrooklibrary.org](mailto:director@millbrooklibrary.org)>; Library Director <[director@doverylib.org](mailto:director@doverylib.org)>; Bitsy Scigliano <[bscigliano@beekmanlibrary.org](mailto:bscigliano@beekmanlibrary.org)>; bschiban@gmail.com; Kerry Weller <[boardpresident@millbrooklibrary.org](mailto:boardpresident@millbrooklibrary.org)>; Erin Hawks <[boardchair@laglib.org](mailto:boardchair@laglib.org)>

**Subject:** 2020 Contract

Betsy,

We have received from the Beekman and Millbrook Libraries formal claims of "serious inequities and hardship" resulting from services to the residents of the Town of Union Vale (the "Town").

Those claims ask the Board of Trustees of the Mid-Hudson Library System to develop a plan for restrictions if there is no new contract in place by the end of the current contract. Our board voted unanimously to accept the claim of serious inequities and hardship as valid, and to authorize and direct me to confer with our Directors Association to implement a plan to restrict Town cardholders from systemwide access to certain resources if there is no contract for public library services for the residents of the Town in place by January 1, 2020. Restrictions would be consistent with the System's Direct Access Plan and would likely go into effect in the latter half of February.

Given that we are not yet at the end of the current contract, I am reaching out again to see whether the Town might be willing to enter into a contract with the Mid-Hudson Library System. I have attached a second draft of the contract you first considered earlier this year, to reflect the changes we have discussed over the past several months:

- An adjustment to the increase for 2020 down to 2%, for a reduced total of \$77,935, to come into alignment with the New York State Property Tax Cap, while retaining the agreement of no increase for 2021; and
- An amendment to section eleven to make clear that if the Board of Regents grants a provisional charter for a library in the Town of Union Vale, then the Agreement may be terminated.

I sincerely hope these terms are acceptable to the Town Board and that we can forge a path forward together to ensure full access to library services for your residents.

Respectfully,

Rebekkah

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Rebekkah Smith Aldrich

Executive Director

Mid-Hudson Library System

103 Market St., Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

845.471.6060 x239

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**Rebekkah Smith Aldrich** <rsmith@midhudson.org>

Tue, Dec 31, 2019 at 7:28 AM

To: Betsy Maas &lt;supervisor@unionvaleny.us&gt;

Cc: "councilmanjohnwelsh@gmail.com" &lt;councilmanjohnwelsh@gmail.com&gt;, Councilman David McMorris &lt;mcmorris.uvny@gmail.com&gt;, Steve Frazier &lt;councilmanfrazier@gmail.com&gt;, Councilwoman Corrina Kelley &lt;corrinakelley2015@gmail.com&gt;, Laurie Shedrick &lt;lshedrick@midhudson.org&gt;, Casey Conlin &lt;cconlin@midhudson.org&gt;, C Fortier &lt;cfortier@beekmanlibrary.org&gt;, M DeBellis &lt;mdebellis@laglib.org&gt;, Library Director &lt;director@millbrooklibrary.org&gt;, Library Director &lt;director@doverlib.org&gt;, Bitsy Scigliano &lt;bscigliano@beekmanlibrary.org&gt;, "bschiban@gmail.com" &lt;bschiban@gmail.com&gt;, Kerry Weller &lt;boardpresident@millbrooklibrary.org&gt;, Erin Hawks &lt;boardchair@laglib.org&gt;, Wendy Fred &lt;finance2@unionvaleny.us&gt;

Wendy,

Thank you for your response, we will look forward to hearing from the town supervisor in the new year,

Happy holidays,

Rebekkah

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**From:** Betsy Maas <supervisor@unionvaleny.us>**Sent:** Tuesday, December 24, 2019 10:34 AM**To:** Rebekkah Smith Aldrich <rsmith@midhudson.org>**Cc:** councilmanjohnwelsh@gmail.com <councilmanjohnwelsh@gmail.com>; 'Councilman David McMorris' <mcmorris.uvny@gmail.com>; 'Steve Frazier' <councilmanfrazier@gmail.com>; 'Councilwoman Corrina Kelley' <corrinakelley2015@gmail.com>; Laurie Shedrick <lshedrick@midhudson.org>; Casey Conlin <cconlin@midhudson.org>; C Fortier <cfortier@beekmanlibrary.org>; M DeBellis <mdebellis@laglib.org>; Library Director <director@millbrooklibrary.org>; Library Director <director@doverlib.org>; 'Bitsy Scigliano' <bscigliano@beekmanlibrary.org>; bschiban@gmail.com <bschiban@gmail.com>; 'Kerry Weller ' <boardpresident@millbrooklibrary.org>; 'Erin Hawks' <boardchair@laglib.org>; Wendy Fred <finance2@unionvaleny.us>**Subject:** RE: 2020 Contract

Dear Ms. Aldrich:

Supervisor Maas is unable to read or respond to your email. She will be unavailable until after the New Year, but did let me know that if anyone from the local libraries contacted her, to suggest an in-person meeting as a next step.

I am happy to set up an appointment at Town Hall, or a more convenient location. Please feel free to contact me at 845-724-5600 ext. 105 or [finance2@unionvaleny.us](mailto:finance2@unionvaleny.us). You can also contact Supervisor Maas directly after January 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Sincerely,

Wendy Fred

Office of the Supervisor

Supervisor Betsy Maas

(845) 724-5600 ext. 110 (office)

(845) 223-7335 (mobile)

Town of Union Vale



**From:** Rebekkah Smith Aldrich [mailto:[rsmith@midhudson.org](mailto:rsmith@midhudson.org)]

**Sent:** Tuesday, December 24, 2019 8:45 AM

**To:** Betsy Maas <[supervisor@unionvaleny.us](mailto:supervisor@unionvaleny.us)>

**Cc:** [councilmanjohnwelsh@gmail.com](mailto:councilmanjohnwelsh@gmail.com); 'Councilman David McMorris' <[mcmorris.uvny@gmail.com](mailto:mcmorris.uvny@gmail.com)>; 'Steve Frazier' <[councilmanfrazier@gmail.com](mailto:councilmanfrazier@gmail.com)>; 'Councilwoman Corrina Kelley' <[corrinakelley2015@gmail.com](mailto:corrinakelley2015@gmail.com)>; Laurie Shedrick <[lshedrick@midhudson.org](mailto:lshedrick@midhudson.org)>; Casey Conlin <[cconlin@midhudson.org](mailto:cconlin@midhudson.org)>; C Fortier <[cfortier@beekmanlibrary.org](mailto:cfortier@beekmanlibrary.org)>; M DeBellis <[mdebells@laglib.org](mailto:mdebells@laglib.org)>; Library Director <[director@millbrooklibrary.org](mailto:director@millbrooklibrary.org)>; Library Director <[director@doverlib.org](mailto:director@doverlib.org)>; 'Bitsy Scigliano' <[bscigliano@beekmanlibrary.org](mailto:bscigliano@beekmanlibrary.org)>; [bschiban@gmail.com](mailto:bschiban@gmail.com); 'Kerry Weller' <[boardpresident@millbrooklibrary.org](mailto:boardpresident@millbrooklibrary.org)>; 'Erin Hawks' <[boardchair@laglib.org](mailto:boardchair@laglib.org)>

**Subject:** RE: 2020 Contract

I am writing in response to your email sent on December 19<sup>th</sup>, to address again the concerns you have raised. I earnestly hope that we can work together to ensure unfettered access to library services and materials by residents of the Town of Union Vale (the "Town").

It is disappointing that, despite my best efforts, you have found my involvement unhelpful. I have never insisted that I be involved in the process. I remain involved only because the affected libraries have repeatedly asked that Mid-Hudson Library System ("MHLS") undertake to reach an agreement with the Town on their behalf. It is my understanding that the libraries previously advised you of this in writing.

I want to clarify that neither the libraries nor MHLS have rejected payment from the Town. Indeed, it is my understanding that the dollar amount set forth in the proposed contract with MHLS is very close to the dollar amount the Town proposes to pay. As I understand it, the Town has rejected the proposed contract because it wants (1) to contract directly with the libraries rather than with MHLS, and (2) it wants to pay per cardholder up to a capped dollar amount. I hope we can address both of those concerns and move past them.

As noted above, the Town's request to contract directly with Beekman Library ("Beekman") and Millbrook Library ("Millbrook") is not acceptable to those libraries. It is an administrative burden to them (and to the Town) to negotiate multiple contracts and ensure that equitable funding is achieved across those contracts. In addition, direct contracts with Beekman and Millbrook would leave LaGrange Library and Dover Plains Library without any contribution from the Town for the cost of their service to Town residents. You are mistaken that separate contracts would "mirror what all the other unserved towns in NY State have"; unserved towns fund libraries in a variety of ways. For example, some town residents contribute to library services through their school district, such as in the towns of Durham and Clermont. Here, because Town residents make substantial use of multiple libraries, the libraries believe that consolidating a contract through MHLS is the most equitable and expeditious approach.

You have indicated that your interest in contracting directly with the libraries stems from a desire for "a local relationship." You have raised this issue previously, and as noted, Beekman and Millbrook have invited Town residents to join their governing boards. In addition, the libraries now send you their annual reports to ensure that the Town Board is kept up-to-date regarding the benefits provided to Town residents. If there are additional ways in which you would like to create a stronger local connection, the libraries are more than interested to hear what that could look like and to work towards that. They do not believe, however, that multiple individual contracts are necessary in order to promote that goal.

As we have previously discussed, we cannot satisfy the Town's desire to pay per cardholder, because it is contrary to the public policy underpinning library services in New York State, as articulated in State law and regulation. Public library services are required to be "for the benefit and free use on equal terms of all the people of the community in which the library is located." [Education Law § 253]. State regulation specifically requires that Town residents be able to obtain library cards from libraries within MHLS without having to obtain preapproval from the Town. In addition, because Town residents are able to access many of the libraries' services without a library card, the number of cardholders would not be an accurate reflection of library usage by Town residents. We believe this approach is barred by State law and regulation, and in any event, we do not see the benefit to anyone – the Town, the libraries, or, most importantly, Town residents – of implementing an administrative barrier to free library services for Town residents.

The Beekman and Millbrook libraries' decision to seek restrictions, and the decision of the Board of Trustees of MHLS to work with its member libraries to implement restrictions, is a last resort and not taken lightly. The libraries understood from your prior communications that the Town would not renew its contract with MHLS for library services, despite our good faith modifications to the agreement. The purpose of imposing restrictions is simply to help ensure that the taxpayers who are paying their fair share to their local library have access to the resources that they are underwriting. This approach is not anti-competitive. The affected libraries are not in competition for funds or trying to make a profit, as in the MacMillan Publishing situation; rather, they are working together to help ensure your residents have equal access to library services, without taking advantage of the residents of other towns.

The current draft agreement would permit Town residents to have free, unfettered access to library services, at a cost the Town has indicated is reasonable. Indeed, the dollar increase above the current contract is very minimal. I hope that we can move forward together to reach agreement toward that end, and avoid the imposition of restrictions to access for Town residents.



Respectfully,

Rebekkah

[Quoted text hidden]

1. The Town of Union Vale is unserved by a chartered public library and provides less than the average funding for public library services provided by contract with neighboring community libraries.
2. More than 5% of the total circulation of library materials by the Beekman Library and by the Millbrook Library have been provided to the residents of the Town of Union Vale.

[Quoted text hidden]

Rebekkah

[Quoted text hidden]

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**supervisor@unionvaleny.us** <supervisor@unionvaleny.us>

Mon, Jan 6, 2020 at 8:17 AM

To: Rebekkah Smith Aldrich <rsmith@midhudson.org>

Cc: "councilmanjohnwelsh@gmail.com" <councilmanjohnwelsh@gmail.com>, Steve Frazier <councilmanfrazier@gmail.com>, Laurie Shedrick <lshedrick@midhudson.org>, Casey Conlin <cconlin@midhudson.org>, C Fortier <cfortier@beekmanlibrary.org>, M DeBellis <mdebells@laglib.org>, Library Director <director@millbrooklibrary.org>, Library Director <director@doverylib.org>, Bitsy Scigliano <bscigliano@beekmanlibrary.org>, "bschiban@gmail.com" <bschiban@gmail.com>, Kerry Weller <boardpresident@millbrooklibrary.org>, Erin Hawks <boardchair@laglib.org>, councilmandurland@unionvaleny.us, councilmanmcgivney@unionvaleny.us

Dear Rebekkah:

We are newly sworn in and ready to begin the 2020 year. We are looking forward to meeting with the libraries and coming to some resolution as quickly as possible.

I'd like to point out that to resolve our issues a negotiation must take place or we will make no progress. In the meantime, we are opposed to your imposition of restrictions since we have expressed an interest in paying for library services all along. We ask that residents, especially senior citizens and children should not be affected in this interim period.

You say that restrictions are a "last resort" but Rebekkah, restrictions have been your the first and only resort ....which you started threatening as early as last July. Instead of listening to us, you hit us with that hammer immediately. From our perspective, the entire process thusfar, has been this: "sign this now or go on restriction", "sign this now or go on restriction"...rinse and repeat. We need a new approach for a new year.

My responses to your last email are as follows:

1. Regarding your involvement, it is unhelpful because obviously it is not working. Your contribution is to provide lengthy emails but contracts are not negotiated by email. You also intimidate some of the Board members who feel they just have to agree with this process because they ..."don't want to go against The System"; you are sheltering other Board members from learning about and understanding this situation; you have even gotten pdf signatures from Board Presidents to put on letters you have written to send to us on their behalf to further distance them from the details. You seem to be more vested in forcing Union Vale to capitulate than anyone else. One of the Library Directors told several Union Vale residents that library board members "don't really understand the situation because they are just part-time volunteers...that is why it is better if MHLS handles it". The Board Presidents are obviously willing to let you exert this much control but I suggest that you are promoting a disconnect between them and their fiduciary duties.
2. You are missing the point about being "anti-competitive" and it has to do with your involvement ...not the libraries wanting their fair share. You are forcing/intimidating/encouraging the 4 libraries to stick together as a unit, you are setting the price for library services without a negotiation and there is no other available competition for these services in this market. This is an oligopoly and it most certainly is anti-competitive.
3. We need local relationships in order to find out things like, why were Union Vale residents cut off or put "on restriction" from video streaming services in Lagrange sometime in 2019? What prompted this decision and given your constant reference to "unfettered access" why did LaGrange think this was a fair decision to make? Residents assure us it is true. We don't want an "after the fact" email from you about this stuff either Rebekkah, we want to understand what in the world LaGrange is thinking since they did get paid the portion you allocated to them in 2019. We want to hear from LaGrange, preferably before things like this happen. In this case, they seem to be violating the spirit of your contract (although not the provisions, which is another reason we could not agree with the MHLS contract). In the future, if we understand their concerns better, our offer can be tailored to their needs and they will always treat our residents fairly. That is what negotiation is about. It is not done via email. Again, your involvement denies us an "unfettered open exchange of ideas" or communication with our local libraries.
4. Both Beekman and Millbrook rejected our offers of payment. I am not sure how you define a rejection and I don't need to split hairs with you on things like the definition of rejection but we were soundly rejected without a conversation. They both told us to just sign the MHLS contract. Those offers are no longer on the table as then we were trying to get a contract signed before the current one expired and that did not work out. Now, we will have to do the hard work of building from the ground up in order to move forward.
5. The Amercian Library Association has advised us in the past that library cards are the most commonly used metric for payments from



communities without libraries. You, again, are taking this suggestion most literally (or wrong) which slows down progress. True, libraries cannot charge people that walk-in off the street who may wish to purchase a card. That is not permitted. The town is not giving "approval" either. You are creating roadblocks to solutions by these suggestions. We are talking about using the number of cards to determine payment. It is a most uncomplicated idea that somehow is being made to seem completely different by you.

6. If each library cannot handle one contract for services that would be shocking. Multiple contracts is not what any of them would be faced with. Your worrying about the administrative burden to the town is unnecessary.

7. Your suggestion that LaGrange and Dover would be left out is true - consistent with your definition of a "hardship". You cannot have it both ways. If you twist the rules or definition of a "hardship" to include LaGrange and Dover, then you must include Pleasant Valley, Fishkill, etc. Isn't that contrary to Education Law as well? Most (not all) other Systems in the State use 10% as the definition of hardship while your System uses 5%, and even under that tighter scenario, we are not a hardship to LaGrange and Dover. If LaGrange is concerned, we discuss it. There are solutions to their concerns we just need to understand them.

8. Finally, Rebekkah, your touting the current agreement "with modifications" is completely misleading. You took 25 basis points off the initial 2.25% increase... nothing else. You have given Union Vale NOTHING that was requested by the town and that includes a meeting with Library Board members who can actually have a good fatih discussion on behalf of their libraries. Your current agreement does not even provide "unfettered access" as demonstrated by LaGrange's recent actions. This is just not acceptable to us as the elected representatives of our residents.

9. You mention the law. Legally, we can contract with one library and pay them everything or we can contract with more than one using terms we both agree to...that is what the law says. We don't need to contract with MHLS and as you know contracts with the System are usually not done...for the the same reasons expressed in this email.

#### New Approach

Rebekkah, you should be urging the libraries to step up and talk to us because that is the only way this will work out. We disagree with you on almost every issue, which is clear for everyone to see. You cannot lead them to a contract with us. The best thing you could to do is move out of the way, let the libraries think and speak for themselves so we can hear them and come up with a mutually beneficial solution. It takes flexibility which we have seen no evidence of so far.

We propose scheduling a meeting with those library board representatives interested in getting paid in 2020. Individually or as a group. Of course, if you want to participate in those discussions Rebekkah, in addition to (not instead of) the respective Board representatives, you would be most welcome.

We can schedule a meeting as soon as is convenient for all interested parties. Please send any proposed dates and attendees via email - NO OTHER EMAILS PLEASE...it is time to talk.

Many thanks,  
Betsy

P.S. I have taken the liberty of adding our two new Councilmen to this email: Councilman Kevin Durland and Councilman Kevin McGivney.  
- Betsy

Betsy C. Maas  
Town Supervisor  
Town of Union Vale  
(845) 724-5600 ext. 110

#### ----- Original Message -----

Subject: RE: 2020 Contract  
From: Rebekkah Smith Aldrich <[rsmith@midhudson.org](mailto:rsmith@midhudson.org)>  
Date: Tue, December 24, 2019 8:45 am  
To: Betsy Maas <[supervisor@unionvaleny.us](mailto:supervisor@unionvaleny.us)>  
Cc: "councilmanjohnwelsh@gmail.com" <[councilmanjohnwelsh@gmail.com](mailto:councilmanjohnwelsh@gmail.com)>, 'Councilman David McMorris' <[mcmorris.uvny@gmail.com](mailto:mcmorris.uvny@gmail.com)>, 'Steve Frazier' <[councilmanfrazier@gmail.com](mailto:councilmanfrazier@gmail.com)>, 'Councilwoman Corrina Kelley' <[corrinakelley2015@gmail.com](mailto:corrinakelley2015@gmail.com)>, Laurie Shedrick <[lshedrick@midhudson.org](mailto:lshedrick@midhudson.org)>, Casey Conlin <[cconlin@midhudson.org](mailto:cconlin@midhudson.org)>, C Fortier <[cfortier@beekmanlibrary.org](mailto:cfortier@beekmanlibrary.org)>, M DeBellis



<mdebellis@laglib.org>, Library Director  
<director@millbrooklibrary.org>, Library Director  
<director@dovertlib.org>, 'Bitsy Scigliano'  
<bscigliano@beekmanlibrary.org>, "bschiban@gmail.com"  
<bschiban@gmail.com>, 'Kerry Weller '  
<boardpresident@millbrooklibrary.org>, 'Erin Hawks'  
<boardchair@laglib.org>

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**Rebekkah Smith Aldrich** <rsmith@midhudson.org>

Mon, Jan 13, 2020 at 9:25 AM

To: "supervisor@unionvaleny.us" <supervisor@unionvaleny.us>

Cc: "councilmanjohnwelsh@gmail.com" <councilmanjohnwelsh@gmail.com>, Steve Frazier <councilmanfrazier@gmail.com>, Laurie Shedrick <lshedrick@midhudson.org>, Casey Conlin <cconlin@midhudson.org>, C Fortier <cfortier@beekmanlibrary.org>, M DeBellis <mdebellis@laglib.org>, Library Director <director@millbrooklibrary.org>, Library Director <director@dovertlib.org>, Bitsy Scigliano <bscigliano@beekmanlibrary.org>, "bschiban@gmail.com" <bschiban@gmail.com>, Kerry Weller <boardpresident@millbrooklibrary.org>, Erin Hawks <boardchair@laglib.org>, "councilmandurland@unionvaleny.us" <councilmandurland@unionvaleny.us>, "councilmanmcgivney@unionvaleny.us" <councilmanmcgivney@unionvaleny.us>, "samgem06@gmail.com" <samgem06@gmail.com>

Betsy,

The board presidents and directors of the impacted libraries are interested in meeting with you to try to reach agreement on the terms of unrestricted access to library services for Union Vale residents. They have identified the following date that will work for the representatives of each library to meet with you at the Beekman Library, and they hope that this date will work for you as well: **Wednesday, January 29<sup>th</sup> at 7pm**. If not, there are some alternate date choices, but we would not have a full complement of representatives from each library on those dates.

I will be at the meeting to provide any technical assistance or background information that may be helpful. Please let me know if you will be joined by anyone else from the town, so the hosting library can ensure that there are sufficient seats for everyone.

In addition, thank you for sharing the issue that has been reported to you regarding access to the video streaming service through the LaGrange Library. After speaking with the director of that library and our Technology Operations staff, we can assure you no restrictions have been prematurely enacted. There are two possible explanations for the patron's experience:

- 1) For all users of the service, regardless of where they live, the number of videos watched is capped to control the cost of the service. Once a user's allocation has been reached, they cannot watch more until the next month; or
- 2) The patron's account may be coded to a different home library, rather than LaGrange, since their card may have been issued by any MHLs member library. The streaming system would automatically prevent their access to this service through the LaGrange Library if that is the case. They are welcome to speak to the library director who can clarify their particular situation.

I hope that we can move forward to ensure unrestricted access to library services for Union Vale residents.

Rebekkah

p.s. Sharon McGreevy, the new board president of the Dover Plains Libraries is also copied on this message.

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**Betsy Maas** <supervisor@unionvaleny.us>

Fri, Jan 17, 2020 at 10:04 AM

To: Rebekkah Smith Aldrich <rsmith@midhudson.org>

Cc: "councilmanjohnwelsh@gmail.com" <councilmanjohnwelsh@gmail.com>, Steve Frazier <councilmanfrazier@gmail.com>, Laurie Shedrick <lshedrick@midhudson.org>, Casey Conlin <cconlin@midhudson.org>, C Fortier <cfortier@beekmanlibrary.org>, M DeBellis <mdebellis@laglib.org>, Library Director <director@millbrooklibrary.org>, Library Director <director@dovertlib.org>, Bitsy Scigliano <bscigliano@beekmanlibrary.org>, "bschiban@gmail.com" <bschiban@gmail.com>, Kerry Weller <boardpresident@millbrooklibrary.org>, Erin Hawks <boardchair@laglib.org>, "councilmandurland@unionvaleny.us" <councilmandurland@unionvaleny.us>, "councilmanmcgivney@unionvaleny.us" <councilmanmcgivney@unionvaleny.us>, "samgem06@gmail.com" <samgem06@gmail.com>

Hello Rebekkah.

I apologize for the delay in responding on email but hope you got the voicemail stating that Wednesday the 29th works well.

Can you tell me who the attendees will be so we can determine who should attend for us. We consider this a closed meeting with Board Presidents and you. Are we on the same page in that regard?

We are looking forward to the discussion.

Thank you for organizing.



Betsy

Betsy C. Maas  
Town Supervisor  
Town of Union Vale  
845-724-5600

On Jan 13, 2020, at 9:25 AM, Rebekkah Smith Aldrich <[rsmith@midhudson.org](mailto:rsmith@midhudson.org)> wrote:

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**Rebekkah Smith Aldrich** <[rsmith@midhudson.org](mailto:rsmith@midhudson.org)>

Wed, Jan 22, 2020 at 12:26 PM

To: Betsy Maas <[supervisor@unionvaleny.us](mailto:supervisor@unionvaleny.us)>

Cc: "councilmanjohnwelsh@gmail.com" <[councilmanjohnwelsh@gmail.com](mailto:councilmanjohnwelsh@gmail.com)>, Steve Frazier <[councilmanfrazier@gmail.com](mailto:councilmanfrazier@gmail.com)>, Laurie Shedrick <[lshedrick@midhudson.org](mailto:lshedrick@midhudson.org)>, Casey Conlin <[cconlin@midhudson.org](mailto:cconlin@midhudson.org)>, C Fortier <[cfortier@beekmanlibrary.org](mailto:cfortier@beekmanlibrary.org)>, M DeBellis <[mdebells@laglib.org](mailto:mdebells@laglib.org)>, Library Director <[director@millbrooklibrary.org](mailto:director@millbrooklibrary.org)>, Library Director <[director@doverlib.org](mailto:director@doverlib.org)>, Bitsy Scigliano <[bscigliano@beekmanlibrary.org](mailto:bscigliano@beekmanlibrary.org)>, "bschiban@gmail.com" <[bschiban@gmail.com](mailto:bschiban@gmail.com)>, Kerry Weller <[boardpresident@millbrooklibrary.org](mailto:boardpresident@millbrooklibrary.org)>, Erin Hawks <[boardchair@laglib.org](mailto:boardchair@laglib.org)>, "councilmandurland@unionvaleny.us" <[councilmandurland@unionvaleny.us](mailto:councilmandurland@unionvaleny.us)>, "councilmanmcgivney@unionvaleny.us" <[councilmanmcgivney@unionvaleny.us](mailto:councilmanmcgivney@unionvaleny.us)>, "samgem06@gmail.com" <[samgem06@gmail.com](mailto:samgem06@gmail.com)>

Hi Betsy,

The group agrees that this will not be a public meeting.

As noted in the initial invitation, both the board presidents and directors of each impacted library will be in attendance.

Bitsy Scigliano, Board President, Beekman Library

Carol Fortier, Director, Beekman Library

Laurie Buckley, Director, Dover Plains Library

Sharon McGreevy, Board President, Dover Plains Library

Erin Hawks, Board President, LaGrange Library

Mary De Bellis, Director, LaGrange Library

Kerry Weller, Board President, Millbrook Library

Thomas Finnigan, Interim Director, Millbrook Library

Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, Executive Director, Mid-Hudson Library System

Please let us know your planned list of representatives from the town for this meeting by the end of day Monday so we can ensure we have name cards for all attendees.

Thank you,

[Quoted text hidden]

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**supervisor@unionvaleny.us** <[supervisor@unionvaleny.us](mailto:supervisor@unionvaleny.us)>

Fri, Jan 24, 2020 at 7:35 AM

To: Rebekkah Smith Aldrich <[rsmith@midhudson.org](mailto:rsmith@midhudson.org)>

Cc: "councilmanjohnwelsh@gmail.com" <[councilmanjohnwelsh@gmail.com](mailto:councilmanjohnwelsh@gmail.com)>, Steve Frazier <[councilmanfrazier@gmail.com](mailto:councilmanfrazier@gmail.com)>, Laurie Shedrick <[lshedrick@midhudson.org](mailto:lshedrick@midhudson.org)>, Casey Conlin <[cconlin@midhudson.org](mailto:cconlin@midhudson.org)>, C Fortier <[cfortier@beekmanlibrary.org](mailto:cfortier@beekmanlibrary.org)>, M DeBellis <[mdebells@laglib.org](mailto:mdebells@laglib.org)>, Library Director <[director@millbrooklibrary.org](mailto:director@millbrooklibrary.org)>, Library Director <[director@doverlib.org](mailto:director@doverlib.org)>, Bitsy Scigliano <[bscigliano@beekmanlibrary.org](mailto:bscigliano@beekmanlibrary.org)>, "bschiban@gmail.com" <[bschiban@gmail.com](mailto:bschiban@gmail.com)>, Kerry Weller <[boardpresident@millbrooklibrary.org](mailto:boardpresident@millbrooklibrary.org)>, Erin Hawks <[boardchair@laglib.org](mailto:boardchair@laglib.org)>, "councilmandurland@unionvaleny.us" <[councilmandurland@unionvaleny.us](mailto:councilmandurland@unionvaleny.us)>, "councilmanmcgivney@unionvaleny.us" <[councilmanmcgivney@unionvaleny.us](mailto:councilmanmcgivney@unionvaleny.us)>, "samgem06@gmail.com" <[samgem06@gmail.com](mailto:samgem06@gmail.com)>

Dear Rebekkah,

I am afraid you have us at a numbers disadvantage which might make for a lopsided conversation. We have checked and confirmed that only two members of our town board can be present as it is a closed meeting. Given that reality, might we suggest dividing the group into two meetings? We would like to meet with the Library Board Presidents first just to discuss our philosophical differences in approaching the

issue. Initially, we would not even get to the nuts and bolts of what the career staff or Directors would be focused on. I believe we need to explore those issues before any details can be negotiated anyway.

If we are able to agree on the philosophical or macro approach, then our second meeting could be with all 9 of you and our full Town Board of 5. We would be happy to host that second meeting in our meeting room, if convenient for everyone (of course, we would also travel to one of your meeting rooms if preferred).

Please confirm that we can begin with a smaller conversation next week. Councilman John Welsh and I will be attending.

Many thanks for organizing.

Betsy

----- Original Message -----

Subject: RE: 2020 Contract

From: Rebekkah Smith Aldrich <rsmith@midhudson.org>

Date: Wed, January 22, 2020 12:26 pm

To: Betsy Maas <supervisor@unionvaleny.us>

Cc: "councilmanjohnwelsh@gmail.com" <councilmanjohnwelsh@gmail.com>, Steve Frazier <councilmanfrazier@gmail.com>, Laurie Shedrick

<lshedrick@midhudson.org>, Casey Conlin <cconlin@midhudson.org>, C

Fortier <cfortier@beekmanlibrary.org>, M DeBellis

<mdebellis@laglib.org>, Library Director

<director@millbrooklibrary.org>, Library Director

<director@doverlib.org>, Bitsy Scigliano

<bscigliano@beekmanlibrary.org>, "bschiban@gmail.com"

<bschiban@gmail.com>, Kerry Weller

<boardpresident@millbrooklibrary.org>, Erin Hawks

<boardchair@laglib.org>, "councilmandurland@unionvaleny.us"

<councilmandurland@unionvaleny.us>, "councilmanmcgivney@unionvaleny.us"

<councilmanmcgivney@unionvaleny.us>, "samgem06@gmail.com"

<samgem06@gmail.com>

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Rebekkah Smith Aldrich <rsmith@midhudson.org>

Sat, Jan 25, 2020 at 9:05 AM

To: "supervisor@unionvaleny.us" <supervisor@unionvaleny.us>

Cc: "councilmanjohnwelsh@gmail.com" <councilmanjohnwelsh@gmail.com>, Steve Frazier <councilmanfrazier@gmail.com>, Laurie Shedrick

<lshedrick@midhudson.org>, Casey Conlin <cconlin@midhudson.org>, C Fortier <cfortier@beekmanlibrary.org>, M DeBellis

<mdebellis@laglib.org>, Library Director <director@millbrooklibrary.org>, Library Director <director@doverlib.org>, Bitsy Scigliano

<bscigliano@beekmanlibrary.org>, "bschiban@gmail.com" <bschiban@gmail.com>, Kerry Weller <boardpresident@millbrooklibrary.org>, Erin

Hawks <boardchair@laglib.org>, "councilmandurland@unionvaleny.us" <councilmandurland@unionvaleny.us>, "councilmanmcgivney@unionvaleny.us"

<councilmanmcgivney@unionvaleny.us>, "samgem06@gmail.com" <samgem06@gmail.com>

Betsy,

My apologies for missing your call; I was traveling to a conference in Philadelphia.

In response to your concerns about an imbalance at the table next week, the board presidents offer to designate two board presidents as spokespeople, as you will have two representatives as well. The library spokespeople will be Kerry Weller, President of the Millbrook Library, and Erin Hawks, President of the LaGrange Library. The others on our list will serve as technical advisors if, for example, there are issues specific to a particular library. The board presidents feel strongly that it would be problematic to exclude the library directors from the meeting, because the directors are responsible for the operation of the libraries.

The libraries hope that we can move forward to have a useful discussion on Wednesday and resolve the issues regarding service to Union Vale residents. The board presidents said they would circulate an agenda in advance of Wednesday's meeting, as a further effort to ensure that the critical issues are addressed and the meeting is productive.

Rebekkah

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From: supervisor@unionvaleny.us <supervisor@unionvaleny.us>



**Sent:** Friday, January 24, 2020 7:35 AM

**To:** Rebekkah Smith Aldrich <[rsmith@midhudson.org](mailto:rsmith@midhudson.org)>

**Cc:** [councilmanjohnwelsh@gmail.com](mailto:councilmanjohnwelsh@gmail.com) <[councilmanjohnwelsh@gmail.com](mailto:councilmanjohnwelsh@gmail.com)>; Steve Frazier <[councilmanfrazier@gmail.com](mailto:councilmanfrazier@gmail.com)>; Laurie Shedrick <[lshedrick@midhudson.org](mailto:lshedrick@midhudson.org)>; Casey Conlin <[cconlin@midhudson.org](mailto:cconlin@midhudson.org)>; C Fortier <[cfortier@beekmanlibrary.org](mailto:cfortier@beekmanlibrary.org)>; M DeBellis <[mdebells@laglib.org](mailto:mdebells@laglib.org)>; Library Director <[director@millbrooklibrary.org](mailto:director@millbrooklibrary.org)>; Library Director <[director@doverlib.org](mailto:director@doverlib.org)>; Bitsy Scigliano <[bscigliano@beekmanlibrary.org](mailto:bscigliano@beekmanlibrary.org)>; [bschiban@gmail.com](mailto:bschiban@gmail.com) <[bschiban@gmail.com](mailto:bschiban@gmail.com)>; Kerry Weller <[boardpresident@millbrooklibrary.org](mailto:boardpresident@millbrooklibrary.org)>; Erin Hawks <[boardchair@laglib.org](mailto:boardchair@laglib.org)>; [councilmandurland@unionvaleny.us](mailto:councilmandurland@unionvaleny.us) <[councilmandurland@unionvaleny.us](mailto:councilmandurland@unionvaleny.us)>; [councilmanmcgivney@unionvaleny.us](mailto:councilmanmcgivney@unionvaleny.us) <[councilmanmcgivney@unionvaleny.us](mailto:councilmanmcgivney@unionvaleny.us)>; [samgem06@gmail.com](mailto:samgem06@gmail.com) <[samgem06@gmail.com](mailto:samgem06@gmail.com)>

**Subject:** RE: 2020 Contract

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**supervisor@unionvaleny.us** <[supervisor@unionvaleny.us](mailto:supervisor@unionvaleny.us)>

Sat, Jan 25, 2020 at 11:40 AM

To: Rebekkah Smith Aldrich <[rsmith@midhudson.org](mailto:rsmith@midhudson.org)>

Cc: "councilmanjohnwelsh@gmail.com" <[councilmanjohnwelsh@gmail.com](mailto:councilmanjohnwelsh@gmail.com)>, Steve Frazier <[councilmanfrazier@gmail.com](mailto:councilmanfrazier@gmail.com)>, Laurie Shedrick <[lshedrick@midhudson.org](mailto:lshedrick@midhudson.org)>, Casey Conlin <[cconlin@midhudson.org](mailto:cconlin@midhudson.org)>, C Fortier <[cfortier@beekmanlibrary.org](mailto:cfortier@beekmanlibrary.org)>, M DeBellis <[mdebells@laglib.org](mailto:mdebells@laglib.org)>, Library Director <[director@millbrooklibrary.org](mailto:director@millbrooklibrary.org)>, Library Director <[director@doverlib.org](mailto:director@doverlib.org)>, Bitsy Scigliano <[bscigliano@beekmanlibrary.org](mailto:bscigliano@beekmanlibrary.org)>, "bschiban@gmail.com" <[bschiban@gmail.com](mailto:bschiban@gmail.com)>, Kerry Weller <[boardpresident@millbrooklibrary.org](mailto:boardpresident@millbrooklibrary.org)>, Erin Hawks <[boardchair@laglib.org](mailto:boardchair@laglib.org)>, "councilmandurland@unionvaleny.us" <[councilmandurland@unionvaleny.us](mailto:councilmandurland@unionvaleny.us)>, "councilmanmcgivney@unionvaleny.us" <[councilmanmcgivney@unionvaleny.us](mailto:councilmanmcgivney@unionvaleny.us)>, "samgem06@gmail.com" <[samgem06@gmail.com](mailto:samgem06@gmail.com)>

Good morning everyone,

No worries about the phone call, Rebekkah. I sent the email instead.

Regarding this morning's email - we all want to see progress made at this meeting. The larger the group, the more difficult that will be, as all of you must know. All five of our Town Board members wanted to come but three are willing to forego attending to keep the meeting closed. We all felt a closed session would be intimate enough to try and establish working relationships and small enough to get all the opinions on the floor for discussion. There can only be philosophical agreement and proposals at this meeting because we must report back to our Board; therefore a second meeting will be warranted to discuss the details. That would be the appropriate time for a larger group. Rebekkah said her presence was for technical assistance so there is no need for more technical assistance at this meeting. Normally, since we requested the meeting, both sides would develop the Agenda jointly to ensure full coverage all issues. In this case we will defer to you.

If we don't do something differently than we have done for months and months, the meeting has less chance of success. Please reconsider our proposal for attendees and try a different path for Wednesday. It will help us get started on the right foot.

No need to respond again, John Welsh and I will see you then.

- Betsy

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**Betsy Maas** <[supervisor@unionvaleny.us](mailto:supervisor@unionvaleny.us)>

Wed, Feb 5, 2020 at 11:02 PM

To: Rebekkah Smith Aldrich <[rsmith@midhudson.org](mailto:rsmith@midhudson.org)>, Laurie Shedrick <[lshedrick@midhudson.org](mailto:lshedrick@midhudson.org)>, Casey Conlin <[cconlin@midhudson.org](mailto:cconlin@midhudson.org)>, C Fortier <[cfortier@beekmanlibrary.org](mailto:cfortier@beekmanlibrary.org)>, M DeBellis <[mdebells@laglib.org](mailto:mdebells@laglib.org)>, Library Director <[director@millbrooklibrary.org](mailto:director@millbrooklibrary.org)>, Library Director <[director@doverlib.org](mailto:director@doverlib.org)>, Bitsy Scigliano <[bscigliano@beekmanlibrary.org](mailto:bscigliano@beekmanlibrary.org)>, [bschiban@gmail.com](mailto:bschiban@gmail.com), Kerry Weller <[boardpresident@millbrooklibrary.org](mailto:boardpresident@millbrooklibrary.org)>, Erin Hawks <[boardchair@laglib.org](mailto:boardchair@laglib.org)>, [samgem06@gmail.com](mailto:samgem06@gmail.com)  
Cc: John Welsh <[councilmanjohnwelsh@gmail.com](mailto:councilmanjohnwelsh@gmail.com)>, Steve Frazier <[councilmanfrazier@gmail.com](mailto:councilmanfrazier@gmail.com)>, [councilmandurland@unionvaleny.us](mailto:councilmandurland@unionvaleny.us), [councilmanMcGivney@unionvaleny.us](mailto:councilmanMcGivney@unionvaleny.us)

Hello all,

Please see our letter attached.

Many thanks,


Betsy

Supervisor Betsy Maas

Town of Union Vale

(845) 724-5600 ext. 110 (office)

[Quoted text hidden]

 **UV Library Response Final Feb 5.pdf**  
3023K



## TOWN OF UNION VALE

### SUPERVISOR

Betsy C. Maas

249 Duncan Road  
LaGrangeville, NY, 12540  
(845) 724-5600



### TOWN BOARD

Steve Frazier  
Kevin Durland  
Kevin McGivney  
John Welsh

February 5, 2020

Dear Board Presidents, Library Directors and Rebekkah Smith Aldrich:

It was a pleasure meeting with all of you last Wednesday evening in order to discuss the library contract and where we all are with regard to coming to terms. It was helpful to hear your personal explanations behind the months of emails. We appreciate Erin Hawks' and Kerry Wellers' articulation of the group's position and respect their dedication to their financial responsibilities. In short, John and I liked both those ladies very much and wished this issue were resolved so we could be on the same team, helping and promoting the local libraries.

After the complicated discussions about quantifying payments based on cardholders (yours and ours), non-cardholders or paying on a per capita basis by taxing the entire population we respectfully decline all of them in favor of a simpler pay-for-service model. Under Education Law 256 (1) we can contract using any terms that are mutually acceptable. We are not sure where the original calculation came from but to us it is unreasonable and therefore, unacceptable.

**If, as a Town Board, we know these things to be true:**

1. We are not underspending.
  - a. The *per capita spending amount and library expenditures as a % of total expenditures* by "unserved" towns such as Union Vale, shows we pay more per capita than any other town without a library in NY State (\$16.20).

- b. Our library expenditures are 4.2% of our tax levy which is more than double the average expenditures statewide, according to the NY Comptroller's Office.

2018 Statewide Reported Expenditures	Average	Median
Library Expenditures, dollars	\$150,406.06	\$16,250.00
Library Expenditures, as Percentage of Total	1.55%	0.63%
Library Expenditures, Per Capita	\$13.14	\$4.45

2. Your terms are completely arbitrary and expensive. You want us to spend more because it is "your System" and you can dictate the terms, but you are totally outside the market in what you charge.
- There is no other town in NY State or in the MHLS that pays four libraries.
  - Our residents do not borrow from two of the four libraries enough to even be considered a hardship, by your own definition.
  - There are no other cost models around NY State that are similar to the calculations you four use to demand payment from us.
  - You expect that dollar amount to increase until it gets to a level you think is "appropriate".
3. When we give you our taxpayers' money, our residents have no vote on your budgets and we have no say in your spending and no say where the money goes.
- Some of you run labor costs at over 62% of your total budget.
  - Some of you push for 2% tax increases every other year and the Mid-Hudson Library System encourages you to pursue increases on a regular basis (the System has been relentlessly pushing us to pay more for five years!).
  - The trajectory of library spending has been excessive over the last few years and is simply unsustainable, especially in an economic downturn.
  - Philosophically, we differ in our approach to prudent financial management using taxpayers' money.

**Then, agreeing to your terms would be an abdication of responsibility.**

We would also never stop arguing because you understand our position and still are not flexible about any of your original positions.



Will you just let us finalize this process by agreeing to a blend of what you four are getting per capita (\$35.03 last year) to be paid to the libraries for our active users? We will also invest in some services (computers & internet access, for one) to entice our residents to come to Tymor Park when they want to take advantage of free services. This might eliminate any Union Vale "non-cardholder users" from coming into your libraries, as you mentioned last week.

If we keep communicating, we can do more to help reduce some of the financial burdens you described but we will need your help in reducing ours. Please consider this final offer seriously so we can put this behind us once and for all.

Most sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. B. Betsy". The signature is stylized with a large, looped initial "J" and a horizontal line extending from the top of the "B".



Carol Fortier &lt;cfortier@beekmanlibrary.org&gt;

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**Union Vale Proposed Email**

21 messages

**Kerry Weller** <boardpresident@millbrooklibrary.org>

Mon, Feb 3, 2020 at 9:31 PM

To: Rebekkah Smith Aldrich &lt;rsmith@midhudson.org&gt;

Cc: Erin Hawks &lt;boardchair@laglib.org&gt;, M DeBellis &lt;mdebells@laglib.org&gt;, Carol Fortier &lt;cfortier@beekmanlibrary.org&gt;, Bitsy Scigliano &lt;bscigliano@beekmanlibrary.org&gt;, Laurie Buckley &lt;director@doverlib.org&gt;, Sharon McGreevy &lt;samgem06@gmail.com&gt;, Thomas Finnigan &lt;director@millbrooklibrary.org&gt;

This email was drafted in response to Betsy Maas' concern regarding cardholders/non-cardholders and was reviewed by directors/board presidents of the four impacted libraries. We are now forwarding it for your consideration and review. Please share with Ellen Bach as well.

Thank you,  
Kerry

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Dear Betsy:

Regarding your concern about cardholder/non-cardholder use and (as you stated during our January 29 meeting) your reluctance to consider per capita calculations, we offer the following for your consideration.

As you are aware, each of the four neighboring libraries are supported, at least in part, by public funds via a 414 or some other mechanism. If one considers how many "resident" cardholders each library has, i.e., cardholders residing in the municipality in which the library is located, one can calculate a cost per cardholder using the total tax support provided by that community. The resulting four "costs per cardholder" can then be averaged. This average cost, when multiplied by the number of Union Vale cardholders across the four libraries, yields a total cost of \$128,256.88 for Union Vale cardholders. As you'll note, this amount is significantly greater than the amount requested in our initial contract negotiations. At this time, we are still willing to accept the original proposed total amount of \$77,935 with the understanding that periodic cost of living adjustments would be made throughout the term of the contract.

Sincerely,  
Kerry

--  
Kerry Weller, Acting President  
Board of Trustees  
Millbrook Library  
3 Friendly Lane  
Millbrook, New York 12545  
(845) 677-3611

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**Sharon McGreevy** <samgem06@gmail.com>

Tue, Feb 4, 2020 at 5:50 AM

To: Kerry Weller &lt;boardpresident@millbrooklibrary.org&gt;

Cc: Rebekkah Smith Aldrich &lt;rsmith@midhudson.org&gt;, Erin Hawks &lt;boardchair@laglib.org&gt;, M DeBellis &lt;mdebells@laglib.org&gt;, Carol Fortier &lt;cfortier@beekmanlibrary.org&gt;, Bitsy Scigliano &lt;bscigliano@beekmanlibrary.org&gt;, Laurie Buckley &lt;director@doverlib.org&gt;, Thomas Finnigan &lt;director@millbrooklibrary.org&gt;

Thank you that looks great!

Sharon

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**Rebekkah Smith Aldrich** <rsmith@midhudson.org>

Tue, Feb 4, 2020 at 8:34 AM

To: Kerry Weller &lt;boardpresident@millbrooklibrary.org&gt;

Cc: Erin Hawks &lt;boardchair@laglib.org&gt;, M DeBellis &lt;mdebells@laglib.org&gt;, C Fortier &lt;cfortier@beekmanlibrary.org&gt;, Bitsy Scigliano &lt;bscigliano@beekmanlibrary.org&gt;, Library Director &lt;director@doverlib.org&gt;, Sharon McGreevy &lt;samgem06@gmail.com&gt;, Library Director &lt;director@millbrooklibrary.org&gt;

Thank you Kerry,

We'll get this reviewed and get a response to you ASAP.

Rebekkah

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**Rebekkah Smith Aldrich** <rsmith@midhudson.org>

Tue, Feb 4, 2020 at 1:41 PM



To: Kerry Weller <boardpresident@millbrooklibrary.org>  
Cc: Erin Hawks <boardchair@laglib.org>, M DeBellis <mdebellis@laglib.org>, C Fortier <cfortier@beekmanlibrary.org>, Bitsy Scigliano <bscigliano@beekmanlibrary.org>, Library Director <director@doverylib.org>, Sharon McGreevy <samgem06@gmail.com>, Library Director <director@millbrooklibrary.org>

Hi Kerry,

Both Ellen and I feel that due to the point in this debate we find ourselves in that this message is appropriate at this time. The only suggestion, which is optional, would be to restate that we do not feel that a per cardholder calculation is philosophically the healthiest perspective in this situation.

Rebekkah

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**Kerry Weller** <boardpresident@millbrooklibrary.org> Tue, Feb 4, 2020 at 4:39 PM  
To: Rebekkah Smith Aldrich <rsmith@midhudson.org>  
Cc: Erin Hawks <boardchair@laglib.org>, M DeBellis <mdebellis@laglib.org>, C Fortier <cfortier@beekmanlibrary.org>, Bitsy Scigliano <bscigliano@beekmanlibrary.org>, Library Director <director@doverylib.org>, Sharon McGreevy <samgem06@gmail.com>, Library Director <director@millbrooklibrary.org>

Thank you for this response. I feel that we have already made it clear that a per cardholder calculation is inappropriate. I fear that re-stating it will just re-open that discussion and potentially lead us further away from resolution.

Betsy emailed me about half an hour ago and was wondering whether we would be providing a number. I will send the email as a response to hers and will then send the thread to all of you.

Thank you everyone for your input and support,  
Kerry

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**Kerry Weller** <boardpresident@millbrooklibrary.org> Tue, Feb 4, 2020 at 7:46 PM  
To: Rebekkah Smith Aldrich <rsmith@midhudson.org>  
Cc: Erin Hawks <boardchair@laglib.org>, M DeBellis <mdebellis@laglib.org>, C Fortier <cfortier@beekmanlibrary.org>, Bitsy Scigliano <bscigliano@beekmanlibrary.org>, Library Director <director@doverylib.org>, Sharon McGreevy <samgem06@gmail.com>, Library Director <director@millbrooklibrary.org>

Betsy thanked me for sending the email and has requested the underlying data. I can certainly put together a table but wanted everyone's thoughts first.

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**boardchair@laglib.org** <boardchair@laglib.org> Tue, Feb 4, 2020 at 8:45 PM  
To: Kerry Weller <boardpresident@millbrooklibrary.org>, Rebekkah Smith Aldrich <rsmith@midhudson.org>  
Cc: M DeBellis <mdebellis@laglib.org>, C Fortier <cfortier@beekmanlibrary.org>, Bitsy Scigliano <bscigliano@beekmanlibrary.org>, Library Director <director@doverylib.org>, Sharon McGreevy <samgem06@gmail.com>, Library Director <director@millbrooklibrary.org>

Quite frankly, I'm ambivalent. If this were a normal situation, it wouldn't seem like an unreasonable request. Coming from her, it feels like another delaying tactic. But I will go with whatever consensus we reach.

Erin M. Hawks  
President, Board of Trustees  
LaGrange Association Library  
[boardchair@laglib.org](mailto:boardchair@laglib.org)

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**Sharon McGreevy** <samgem06@gmail.com> Tue, Feb 4, 2020 at 8:48 PM  
To: Erin Hawks <boardchair@laglib.org>  
Cc: Kerry Weller <boardpresident@millbrooklibrary.org>, Rebekkah Smith Aldrich <rsmith@midhudson.org>, M DeBellis <mdebellis@laglib.org>, C Fortier <cfortier@beekmanlibrary.org>, Bitsy Scigliano <bscigliano@beekmanlibrary.org>, Library Director <director@doverylib.org>, Library Director <director@millbrooklibrary.org>

This is almost as bad as a soap opera lol - whatever you do is fine with me. I'm frankly getting sick and tired of this and I don't even know her that well.

Thanks for your hard work on this - hope we come to a resolution soon  
Sharon

[Quoted text hidden]

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**Carol Fortier** <cfortier@beekmanlibrary.org> Wed, Feb 5, 2020 at 8:05 AM  
To: boardchair@laglib.org  
Cc: Kerry Weller <boardpresident@millbrooklibrary.org>, Rebekkah Smith Aldrich <rsmith@midhudson.org>, M DeBellis <mdebellis@laglib.org>, Bitsy Scigliano <bscigliano@beekmanlibrary.org>, Library Director <director@doverylib.org>, Sharon McGreevy <samgem06@gmail.com>, Library

Director <director@millbrooklibrary.org>

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 4, 2020, at 8:46 PM, [boardchair@laglib.org](mailto:boardchair@laglib.org) wrote:

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**Carol Fortier** <cfortier@beekmanlibrary.org>

Wed, Feb 5, 2020 at 8:06 AM

To: [boardchair@laglib.org](mailto:boardchair@laglib.org)

Cc: Kerry Weller <boardpresident@millbrooklibrary.org>, Rebekkah Smith Aldrich <rsmith@midhudson.org>, M DeBellis <mdebellis@laglib.org>, Bitsy Scigliano <bscigliano@beekmanlibrary.org>, Library Director <director@doverlib.org>, Sharon McGreevy <samgem06@gmail.com>, Library Director <director@millbrooklibrary.org>

I would go ahead and send the data reminding her that we need an answer this week.  
Carol

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 4, 2020, at 8:46 PM, [boardchair@laglib.org](mailto:boardchair@laglib.org) wrote:

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**Bitsy Scigliano** <bscigliano@beekmanlibrary.org>

Wed, Feb 5, 2020 at 10:02 AM

To: Carol Fortier <cfortier@beekmanlibrary.org>

Cc: Kerry Weller <boardpresident@millbrooklibrary.org>, Library Director <director@doverlib.org>, Library Director <director@millbrooklibrary.org>, M DeBellis <mdebellis@laglib.org>, Rebekkah Smith Aldrich <rsmith@midhudson.org>, Sharon McGreevy <samgem06@gmail.com>, [boardchair@laglib.org](mailto:boardchair@laglib.org)

I agree with Carol. Send data, but deadline is this week  
[Quoted text hidden]

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**mdebellis@laglib.org** <mdebellis@laglib.org>

Wed, Feb 5, 2020 at 10:24 AM

To: Bitsy Scigliano <bscigliano@beekmanlibrary.org>, Carol Fortier <cfortier@beekmanlibrary.org>

Cc: Kerry Weller <boardpresident@millbrooklibrary.org>, Library Director <director@doverlib.org>, Library Director <director@millbrooklibrary.org>, Rebekkah Smith Aldrich <rsmith@midhudson.org>, Sharon McGreevy <samgem06@gmail.com>, "[boardchair@laglib.org](mailto:boardchair@laglib.org)" <[boardchair@laglib.org](mailto:boardchair@laglib.org)>

I also agree with this plan - thank you everyone for all of your efforts.  
Mary

Mary M. De Bellis, Director  
LaGrange Association Library  
488 Freedom Plains Road, Suite 109  
Poughkeepsie, NY 12603  
[mdebellis@laglib.org](mailto:mdebellis@laglib.org)  
845-452-3141 ext. 103

***I'm currently reading: The Wolf Wants In by Laura McHugh***

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**Thomas Finnigan** <director@millbrooklibrary.org>

Wed, Feb 5, 2020 at 11:45 AM

To: mdebellis <mdebellis@laglib.org>

Cc: Bitsy Scigliano <bscigliano@beekmanlibrary.org>, Carol Fortier <cfortier@beekmanlibrary.org>, Kerry Weller <boardpresident@millbrooklibrary.org>, Library Director <director@doverlib.org>, Rebekkah Smith Aldrich <rsmith@midhudson.org>, Sharon McGreevy <samgem06@gmail.com>, "[boardchair@laglib.org](mailto:boardchair@laglib.org)" <[boardchair@laglib.org](mailto:boardchair@laglib.org)>

I agree with Carol.



Thomas Finnigan, Interim Director  
Millbrook Library  
3 Friendly Lane  
PO Box 286  
Millbrook, NY 12545  
(845) 677-3611 ext. 3

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**Kerry Weller** <boardpresident@millbrooklibrary.org>

Wed, Feb 5, 2020 at 5:19 PM

To: Carol Fortier <cfortier@beekmanlibrary.org>

Cc: Erin Hawks <boardchair@laglib.org>, Rebekkah Smith Aldrich <rsmith@midhudson.org>, M DeBellis <mdebellis@laglib.org>, Bitsy Scigliano <bscigliano@beekmanlibrary.org>, Library Director <director@doverlib.org>, Sharon McGreevy <samgem06@gmail.com>, Library Director <director@millbrooklibrary.org>

Ok - I will draft something tonight and send it for review so that we can get it out by hopefully lunch time tomorrow.

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**Kerry Weller** <boardpresident@millbrooklibrary.org>

Wed, Feb 5, 2020 at 9:20 PM

To: Carol Fortier <cfortier@beekmanlibrary.org>

Cc: Erin Hawks <boardchair@laglib.org>, Rebekkah Smith Aldrich <rsmith@midhudson.org>, M DeBellis <mdebellis@laglib.org>, Bitsy Scigliano <bscigliano@beekmanlibrary.org>, Library Director <director@doverlib.org>, Sharon McGreevy <samgem06@gmail.com>, Library Director <director@millbrooklibrary.org>

Attached please find a table with data to support the \$128K figure. Carol - can you please double check the numbers and provide the source(s) of the data? Thank you.

I will check this email during lunch tomorrow with the hopes (if we have consensus) of being able to send it to Betsy at that time.

Thank you,  
Kerry

Here is the proposed email to accompany the data table:

Dear Betsy -

Attached per your request is the data used to support the proposed \$128,257 total contract amount. As I stated in my earlier email, we are still willing to accept the original contract offer of \$77,935. We also need to know if you are amenable to a six year term for the contract. Additionally, the timing of the payment still needs to be determined. Receipt of payment on or before March 1 works well for the libraries and we are under the impression that it works well for you since that date was in the contracts you proposed to Beekman and Millbrook.

In order for the contract to be drafted, please let us know by noon on Monday what your decisions are regarding: the total annual contract amount, the contract term including proposed periodic cost of living adjustments, and the timing of the payment. Additional delays will unfortunately result in restrictions being placed on Union Vale residents, which, to re-iterate, is not what the libraries and the Mid-Hudson Library System wish to see happen. The Library Boards and Staffs remain hopeful that we can come to agreement.

Sincerely,  
Kerry

[Quoted text hidden]



**Union Vale Proposal.xlsx**  
43K

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**Sharon McGreevy** <samgem06@gmail.com>

Thu, Feb 6, 2020 at 6:36 AM

To: Kerry Weller <boardpresident@millbrooklibrary.org>

Cc: Carol Fortier <cfortier@beekmanlibrary.org>, Erin Hawks <boardchair@laglib.org>, Rebekkah Smith Aldrich <rsmith@midhudson.org>, M DeBellis <mdebellis@laglib.org>, Bitsy Scigliano <bscigliano@beekmanlibrary.org>, Library Director <director@doverlib.org>, Library Director <director@millbrooklibrary.org>

I just saw her response to us and am sick and tired of her waffling. I vote for restrictions ASAP.

Thanks  
Sharon

[Quoted text hidden]

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**boardchair@laglib.org** <boardchair@laglib.org>

Thu, Feb 6, 2020 at 6:12 AM

To: Sharon McGreevy <samgem06@gmail.com>, Kerry Weller <boardpresident@millbrooklibrary.org>

Cc: Carol Fortier <cfortier@beekmanlibrary.org>, Rebekkah Smith Aldrich <rsmith@midhudson.org>, M DeBellis <mdebellis@laglib.org>, Bitsy Scigliano <bscigliano@beekmanlibrary.org>, Library Director <director@doverlib.org>, Library Director <director@millbrooklibrary.org>

I agree with Sharon. Enough is enough. She didn't hear a word we said. I think it is time for restrictions. It may be the only "language" she is going to understand.

Erin M. Hawks  
President, Board of Trustees  
LaGrange Association Library  
[boardchair@laglib.org](mailto:boardchair@laglib.org)

----- Original Message -----

Subject: Re: Union Vale Proposed Email  
From: Sharon McGreevy <[samgem06@gmail.com](mailto:samgem06@gmail.com)>  
Date: Thu, February 06, 2020 5:36 am  
To: Kerry Weller <[boardpresident@millbrooklibrary.org](mailto:boardpresident@millbrooklibrary.org)>  
Cc: Carol Fortier <[cfortier@beekmanlibrary.org](mailto:cfortier@beekmanlibrary.org)>, Erin Hawks <[boardchair@laglib.org](mailto:boardchair@laglib.org)>, Rebekkah Smith Aldrich <[rsmith@midhudson.org](mailto:rsmith@midhudson.org)>, M DeBellis <[mdebells@laglib.org](mailto:mdebells@laglib.org)>, Bitsy Scigliano <[bscigliano@beekmanlibrary.org](mailto:bscigliano@beekmanlibrary.org)>, Library Director <[director@doverylib.org](mailto:director@doverylib.org)>, Library Director <[director@millbrooklibrary.org](mailto:director@millbrooklibrary.org)>

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**Kerry Weller** <[boardpresident@millbrooklibrary.org](mailto:boardpresident@millbrooklibrary.org)>

Thu, Feb 6, 2020 at 9:36 AM

To: Erin Hawks <[boardchair@laglib.org](mailto:boardchair@laglib.org)>

Cc: Sharon McGreevy <[samgem06@gmail.com](mailto:samgem06@gmail.com)>, Carol Fortier <[cfortier@beekmanlibrary.org](mailto:cfortier@beekmanlibrary.org)>, Rebekkah Smith Aldrich <[rsmith@midhudson.org](mailto:rsmith@midhudson.org)>, M DeBellis <[mdebells@laglib.org](mailto:mdebells@laglib.org)>, Bitsy Scigliano <[bscigliano@beekmanlibrary.org](mailto:bscigliano@beekmanlibrary.org)>, Library Director <[director@doverylib.org](mailto:director@doverylib.org)>, Library Director <[director@millbrooklibrary.org](mailto:director@millbrooklibrary.org)>

You'll see by Bety's correspondence that we are as far apart as ever. I think we should ask the attorney to draft a restrictions notice but I also think it is VERY important that we communicate to Betsy how we arrived at the \$128K number. I do not want to give the opportunity for the impression, however wrong the impression may be, that we were not forthcoming with our data. So in my view it's important to include the \$128K information in the notice of restrictions.

Thank you all for your hard work on this - was so hoping for a different outcome,  
Kerry

[Quoted text hidden]

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**Rebekkah Smith Aldrich** <[rsmith@midhudson.org](mailto:rsmith@midhudson.org)>

Thu, Feb 6, 2020 at 9:51 AM

To: Kerry Weller <[boardpresident@millbrooklibrary.org](mailto:boardpresident@millbrooklibrary.org)>

Cc: C Fortier <[cfortier@beekmanlibrary.org](mailto:cfortier@beekmanlibrary.org)>

Kerry,

Would you have time for a call with the attorney today? I think it would be best if perhaps, you, Carol and I were on the phone together with her at this point. Ellen is available this afternoon and I have availability between 12:30-2:30p and 4-5p.

[Quoted text hidden]

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**Carol Fortier** <[cfortier@beekmanlibrary.org](mailto:cfortier@beekmanlibrary.org)>

Thu, Feb 6, 2020 at 10:01 AM

To: Rebekkah Smith Aldrich <[rsmith@midhudson.org](mailto:rsmith@midhudson.org)>

Cc: Kerry Weller <[boardpresident@millbrooklibrary.org](mailto:boardpresident@millbrooklibrary.org)>

I'll make myself available when it works for Kerry.

[Quoted text hidden]

--  
**Carol Fortier, Director**  
**Beekman Library**  
**845-724-3414 X5**  
**[beekmanlibrary.org](http://beekmanlibrary.org)**

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**[boardchair@laglib.org](mailto:boardchair@laglib.org)** <[boardchair@laglib.org](mailto:boardchair@laglib.org)>

Sat, Feb 8, 2020 at 3:35 PM

To: Kerry Weller <[boardpresident@millbrooklibrary.org](mailto:boardpresident@millbrooklibrary.org)>

Cc: Sharon McGreevy <[samgem06@gmail.com](mailto:samgem06@gmail.com)>, Carol Fortier <[cfortier@beekmanlibrary.org](mailto:cfortier@beekmanlibrary.org)>, Rebekkah Smith Aldrich <[rsmith@midhudson.org](mailto:rsmith@midhudson.org)>, M DeBellis <[mdebells@laglib.org](mailto:mdebells@laglib.org)>, Bitsy Scigliano <[bscigliano@beekmanlibrary.org](mailto:bscigliano@beekmanlibrary.org)>, Library Director <[director@doverylib.org](mailto:director@doverylib.org)>, Library Director <[director@millbrooklibrary.org](mailto:director@millbrooklibrary.org)>

Hi Kerry

I am fine with giving her the rationale behind the \$128K figure when we send her the notice regarding restrictions. I really wish that she



would see reason so that we don't have to do this. 😞

[Quoted text hidden]



Kerry Weller <boardpresident@millbrooklibrary.org>

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## RE: Union Vale Contract

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**Betsy Maas** <supervisor@unionvaleny.us>

Tue, Feb 4, 2020 at 5:44 PM

To: Kerry Weller <boardpresident@millbrooklibrary.org>

Thank you for this, Kerry. Can you send the underlying data?

Supervisor Betsy Maas

(845) 724-5600 ext. 110 (office)

(845) 223-7335 (mobile)

Town of Union Vale

**From:** Kerry Weller [mailto:boardpresident@millbrooklibrary.org]

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 04, 2020 4:55 PM

**To:** Betsy Maas <supervisor@unionvaleny.us>

**Subject:** Re: Union Vale Contract

Dear Betsy:

Regarding your concern about cardholder/non-cardholder use (emails from you copied and included below) and (as you stated during our January 29 meeting) your reluctance to consider per capita calculations, we offer the following for your consideration.

As you are aware, each of the four neighboring libraries are supported, at least in part, by public funds via a 414 or some other mechanism. If one considers how many "resident" cardholders each library has, i.e., cardholders residing in the municipality in which the library is located, one can calculate a cost per cardholder using the total tax support provided by that community. The resulting four "costs per cardholder" can then be averaged. This average cost, when multiplied by the number of Union Vale cardholders across the four libraries, yields a total cost of \$128,257 for Union Vale cardholders. As you'll note, this amount is significantly greater than the amount requested in our initial contract negotiations. At this time, we are still willing to accept the original proposed total amount of \$77,935 with the understanding that periodic cost of living adjustments would be made throughout the term of the contract.

Sincerely,

Kerry



Kerry-

Let me clarify my email below. The "non-cardholder usage" idea may not be random to you, but I am referring to an outsider (our Board Members) who would not be familiar with that concept. In their view the number of people would be de minimus...so why argue about it? That is what I meant.

-Betsy

----- Original Message -----

Subject: RE: Union Vale Contract

From: <[supervisor@unionvaleny.us](mailto:supervisor@unionvaleny.us)>

Date: Sat, February 01, 2020 1:19 pm

To: "Kerry Weller" <[boardpresident@millbrooklibrary.org](mailto:boardpresident@millbrooklibrary.org)>

Hello Kerry,

While I am discussing your email and our meeting with the Town Board members, I have to say that the concept of "non-cardholder use" is one that we cannot deal with or consider in our contract. I understand that Erin thought it was valid, and she may be suspicious and correct that it is true, but she has absolutely no data to support her concern. Also, as I mentioned the other night, there is a low barrier to entrance when it comes to joining a library - it is free. Therefore, logic would suggest that anyone wanting anything from a library would get a card. You all manage the libraries and the onus is on you to figure out who is using services. A person just walking around costs no one anything.

Can we agree to not muddy this up further by adding a random, unsubstantiated concept to argue about?

[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]

February 11, 2020

VIA EMAIL

Betsy C. Maas, Supervisor  
Councilmen Durland, Frazier, McGivney, and Welsh  
Town of Union Vale

Re: Library Services for Town of Union Vale

Dear Betsy and Councilmen Durland, Frazier, McGivney, and Welsh:

I am writing on behalf of the presidents of the Beekman, Dover, LaGrange, and Millbrook Libraries ("the "Libraries"), in response to your e-mail dated February 4th and your letter dated February 5th (both attached). Your last correspondence indicates that we may have reached an impasse in our efforts to provide unrestricted access to library services for Town of Union Vale ("Town" or "Union Vale") residents, but the Libraries remain committed to making every prudent effort to accomplish that goal. Toward that end, we provide the following additional information you requested last week, as well as a response to the concerns raised in your recent letter, with hopes that it may enable us to reach agreement with the Town.

**I. Per Cardholder Calculation**

In your February 4<sup>th</sup> email, you requested data supporting the \$128,257 figure I provided as the total cost for Union Vale usage, when measured per cardholder. The following table includes the data used in the calculation:

Library Name	Tax Support	# Resident Cardholders*	Cost per Resident Cardholder
Beekman	\$405,000	6,046	\$66.99
Dover	\$275,000	4,667	\$58.92
LaGrange	\$622,900	6,928	\$89.91
Millbrook	\$184,000	3,128	\$58.82

The total number of Union Vale cardholders is 1,868.

\*Resident Cardholders as presented here means the number of cardholders residing in the municipality in which the library is located.



Sources for the foregoing data are as follows:

- Tax Support - 2019 Annual Report to New York State
- Resident Cardholders - MHLS Patron Database, accessed 2.6.2020
- Number of Union Vale cardholders - MHLS Patron Database, accessed 2.6.2020

As I noted in my February 4th email, if one considers how many Resident Cardholders each library has, a cost per cardholder can be calculated using the total tax support provided by that community. Results of that calculation are provided in the last column of the table above. The resulting average of the four "costs per cardholder" is \$68.66. This average is multiplied by the number of Union Vale cardholders across the four Libraries (1,868) to yield a total cost of \$128,257 for Union Vale cardholders. This amount is significantly greater (approximately \$50,000 more) than the \$77,935 contribution requested by the Libraries from the Town.

We provided the per cardholder calculation because you have maintained for many months that Union Vale should pay "by cardholder," noting that many of your residents feel it is not appropriate to pay for a service they do not utilize. As we have explained on many occasions, libraries in New York State are prohibited by law from using a "pay per service" model, and we believe that calculating the contract amount on that basis is inconsistent with public policy. Libraries are a public service like schools, roads, and parks, and as such are supported by a community as a whole. Nevertheless, we ultimately provided the per cardholder number as requested, as a compromise to help us reach agreement with the Town.

Unfortunately, before we were able to provide you with the basis for the per cardholder dollar figure, as you requested on February 4<sup>th</sup>, you summarily rejected that approach in your letter of February 5<sup>th</sup>. After your insistence on examining a variety of calculations, you now "decline all of them in favor of a simpler pay-for-service model."

After advocating so strenuously for the per cardholder calculation, the Town has abruptly rejected it without explanation. This has resulted in an unfortunate waste of time and resources for the four Libraries, who had proposed all along that Union Vale contribute a straight dollar amount that was significantly lower than the per cardholder calculation.

## **II. Straight Dollar Contribution**

The Town has also rejected the option of paying a straight dollar amount. Although the Libraries are asking for a very low contribution relative to what neighboring taxpayers contribute, and although we have previously discussed with you the basis for the proposed dollar amount, you state in your letter that the Town is "not sure where the original calculation

came from.” You indicate that the Town has rejected that proposed dollar amount based on the following three contentions, as set forth in your letter:

1. We are not underspending.
2. Your terms are completely arbitrary and expensive.
3. When we give you our taxpayers’ money, our residents have no vote on your budgets and we have no say in your spending and no say where the money goes.

We respond to each of these concerns, with the hope that our responses will provide a better understanding of the Libraries’ position and a basis for reaching agreement.

*Union Vale Assertion 1: Not Underspending for Library Services*

A review of the data demonstrates that Union Vale *is* underspending for library services, that library service to Union Vale is currently subsidized by taxpayers in the neighboring towns, and that this would continue to be true even with the Libraries’ proposal for contribution from Union Vale. The dollar figure proposed by the Libraries would result in a per capita cost (\$16.20)<sup>1</sup> for Union Vale residents that is *significantly lower* than what taxpayers in the four neighboring communities are paying to support their libraries. In Dutchess County, the average per capita funding is \$50.26. This would translate to a total contracted amount of \$245,118 given the population of the Town of Union Vale as stated in the 2010 Census (4,877). The data used to calculate average per capita funding for Union Vale and the four municipalities supporting Union Vale’s neighboring libraries is as follows<sup>2</sup>:

- **Beekman: \$32.02** (\$405,000 in town funding divided by 12,650 residents)
- **Dover: \$31.61** (\$275,000 in town funding divided by 8,699 residents)
- **LaGrange: \$39.60** (\$622,900 in town funding divided by 15,730 residents)
- **Millbrook: \$38.81** (\$184,000 in town funding divided by 4,741 residents)
- **Union Vale: \$15.67** (\$76,407 divided by 4,877 residents)

What residents pay per capita in other areas of New York State is not reflective of the cost of providing library services in Dutchess County, so your reference to State-wide data is not relevant. More importantly, none of the data you reference (and for which you provide no specific citation) accounts for towns where residents contribute to the cost of library services via school district taxes, special library district taxes, or voter-directed town funding. This data also does not account for towns that pay zero dollars for library services because their residents

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<sup>1</sup> We note that you assert that Union Vale taxpayers are currently paying this per capita cost. That is not accurate. The prior contract, which ended in 2019, resulted in a per capita cost of \$15.37. Union Vale taxpayers are currently paying nothing at all for library services because of your unwillingness to sign a contract.

<sup>2</sup> All funding numbers are from the NY State 2018 Annual Report. Population numbers are from the 2010 census. The Beekman Library population number is adjusted to remove the population of Green Haven Correctional Facility (14, 621 minus 1,971 equals 12,650).



do not use library services (which is not the case in Union Vale), or for towns that obtain free library services by freeloading off neighboring communities (as Union Vale is currently doing).

*Union Vale Assertion 2: The Libraries' Terms are Arbitrary and Expensive*

The \$77,935 contribution proposed by the Libraries is neither arbitrary nor expensive. As we explained during our January 29<sup>th</sup> meeting with you, the original 2015 contracted amount, \$72,000, resulted from the Libraries' willingness to compromise when these discussions took place five years ago. The \$72,000 was *half of the per capita equitable funding* at that time. The current request of \$77,935 is based on a 2% increase over the prior year's funding, a rate of increase that the Town has previously recognized as fair. Relative to the contributions made by neighboring taxpayers, \$77,935 is a dramatic underpayment that demonstrates tremendous sensitivity to the Town of Union Vale's financial concerns and illustrates the Libraries' historical and continued willingness to compromise by accepting only a fraction of what is equitable funding as defined by our State-approved Direct Access Plan.

You assert that "[t]here is no other town in NY State or in the MHLS that pays four libraries," but it makes no difference to the Town whether its contribution is made to one library or to four. Indeed, the goal of making the contract between the Town and MHLS, with MHLS allocating money to the four libraries according to Town usage of the Libraries, is to ensure that Town residents are able to gain unrestricted access to all four libraries without unfairly overburdening any library. The fact that Union Vale usage of two of the Libraries is not yet sufficiently heavy to be defined as a "hardship" under the Direct Access Plan does not make it fair for Union Vale to freeload off taxpayers in the other towns for library services. The contract with MHLS provides a fair mechanism for Union Vale taxpayers to pay a much-reduced amount to obtain library services from all four Libraries.

You have misunderstood us if you believe that we "expect that dollar amount to increase until it gets to a level [we] think is 'appropriate.'" As we have repeatedly stated, both during our January 29<sup>th</sup> meeting and via email, we expect only periodic, not even annual, cost of living adjustments to the contract. Just as your Town experiences annual increases in operating expenses, so do the Libraries. It would be unreasonable to suggest that the Libraries will not need modest increases over the life of the contract. We hope that as the financial stewards of your municipality, you appreciate that we must also be prudent financial stewards of our institutions.

*Union Vale Assertion 3: Town Residents Have No Vote, No Say*

We respectfully disagree that Union Vale residents have no say. Our Board meetings are held in compliance with the Open Meetings Law, our Boards are accessible via email, reports are provided to your Town, and the Millbrook and Beekman libraries have actively sought to have



Union Vale representation on their Boards. These are the very same mechanisms by which the Libraries are held accountable to the residents of the towns which currently support them.

You seem to assert that MHLS encourages the Libraries to pursue needless tax increases. On the contrary, MHLS advises us to budget carefully; to seek small, incremental increases as needed; and to avoid sudden large requests for increases that will be difficult for taxpayers. We take budget preparation very seriously and work within our own Boards to determine where and when our individual library budgets need to be increased. As with most libraries, the greatest portion of our budgets is for staff costs, because libraries are service-based institutions. The American Library Association provides data showing that on average, public libraries spend 67.6% of their operating budgets on paid staff -- more than our Libraries do. See <http://www.ala.org/tools/libfactsheets/alalibraryfactsheet04>.

It is also untrue that the System has been "relentlessly pushing [the Town] to pay more for five years." First, as I noted at the January 29th meeting, MHLS has acted on the Union Vale funding issue only at the Libraries' request, on our behalf, and with clear direction from us. The relationship between and among our Board Presidents, Library Directors and the MHLS has been one of collaboration and transparency. Secondly, we have not relentlessly requested more money -- we have asked only for a 2% increase to a dollar amount that is approximately one-third of what is considered equitable under the State-approved Direct Access Plan.

Near the conclusion of your February 5th letter, you state that the Libraries "are not flexible about any of [our] original positions." In fact, however, we have made some of your requested changes to the proposed contract. We have also gone to great lengths over a period of months to answer your questions, to provide the data you have requested, and to continue our efforts to reach agreement with the Town and avoid the imposition of restrictions on Town residents despite what has seemed an unnecessarily grueling process. When you refused to continue discussions with MHLS, the Libraries agreed to meet with you directly despite the logistical difficulties. Although there is no contract in place for service to the Town, the Libraries have delayed implementing restrictions for your residents while we continue to work with you to reach an agreement.

It is true that, while we have considered your alternative proposals, we ultimately have not retreated from our initial proposal regarding the amount of the Town's contribution. This is because, as noted above, that dollar amount is based on the compromise amount reached by the Libraries with the Town in 2015, an amount significantly lower than the Town's fair contribution under the Direct Access Plan. From our point of view, since 2015 the Libraries have been sensitive to Union Vale's financial concerns, with a contract amount that is far below



what is equitable to the other towns. Our proposal adheres to that same framework -- the proposed amount of \$77,935 represents just a 2% increase over the prior contract.

**III. Union Vale's New "Active-User" Proposal**

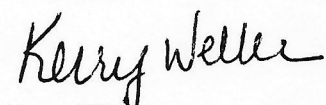
We have listened to your concerns, examined the data, and considered your proposals with open minds. The Libraries spent a huge amount of time and energy addressing your interest in a per cardholder framework, for naught, and you now present an entirely new proposal regarding payment per "active user." This sounds like a pay-per-user approach which, as we have noted many, many times, we cannot do. In any event, a reasonable and predictable dollar contribution, which can be budgeted for by both the Town and the Libraries, is much preferable to embarking upon a new effort to define and count "active users," which may prove as unproductive as our extended and complicated discussions of calculations based on residents and cardholders.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Libraries propose that the Town contract with MHLS for a six-year term, with an initial contribution of \$77,935 and a cost of living increase based on the federal Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) every two years, with payment to be made on or before March 1 of each year. We believe that these terms are generous to Union Vale, and that a lower contribution from Union Vale would be unfair to the taxpayers in the other towns.

We hope that the information provided here is helpful to your deliberations, and that we can agree upon the proposed terms. It is our earnest desire to provide unrestricted access to library services for the residents of Union Vale on terms that are fair to all. Please advise us no later than February 21, 2020 whether these terms are acceptable.

Sincerely,



Kerry Weller  
President  
Millbrook Library



Carol Fortier &lt;cfortier@beekmanlibrary.org&gt;

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**Fwd: Letter from Libraries**

3 messages

**Kerry Weller** <boardpresident@millbrooklibrary.org>

Wed, Feb 12, 2020 at 9:08 AM

To: Bitsy Scigliano <bscigliano@beekmanlibrary.org>, Erin Hawks <boardchair@laglib.org>, Sharon McGreevy <samgem06@gmail.com>, Carol Fortier <cfortier@beekmanlibrary.org>, M DeBellis <mdebells@laglib.org>, Laurie Buckley <director@doerlib.org>, Rebekkah Smith Aldrich <rsmith@midhudson.org>, "Bach, Ellen" <ebach@woh.com>, Thomas Finnigan <director@millbrooklibrary.org>

FYI.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Kerry Weller** <boardpresident@millbrooklibrary.org>

Date: Wed, Feb 12, 2020 at 9:02 AM

Subject: Letter from Libraries

To: Betsy Maas <supervisor@unionvaleny.us>, <councilmanfrazier@gmail.com>, <councilmandurand@unionvaleny.us>, <councilmanmcgivney@unionvaleny.us>, <councilmanjohnwelsh@gmail.com>

Good Morning -

Please see attached for a letter from our libraries.

Sincerely,

Kerry Weller, Acting President  
Board of Trustees  
Millbrook Library  
3 Friendly Lane  
Millbrook, New York 12545  
(845) 677-3611

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Kerry Weller, Acting President  
Board of Trustees  
Millbrook Library  
3 Friendly Lane  
Millbrook, New York 12545  
(845) 677-3611



**LibraryLetterToUnionValeFeb11\_2020.pdf**  
5096K

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**Kerry Weller** <boardpresident@millbrooklibrary.org>

Wed, Feb 12, 2020 at 6:46 PM

To: M DeBellis <mdebells@laglib.org>, Erin Hawks <boardchair@laglib.org>, Bitsy Scigliano <bscigliano@beekmanlibrary.org>, Carol Fortier <cfortier@beekmanlibrary.org>, Sharon McGreevy <samgem06@gmail.com>, Laurie Buckley <director@doerlib.org>, Rebekkah Smith Aldrich <rsmith@midhudson.org>, "Bach, Ellen" <ebach@woh.com>, Thomas Finnigan <director@millbrooklibrary.org>

FYI...

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Betsy Maas** <supervisor@unionvaleny.us>

Date: Wed, Feb 12, 2020 at 11:01 AM

Subject: RE: Letter from Libraries

To: Kerry Weller &lt;boardpresident@millbrooklibrary.org&gt;

Cc: <councilmanfrazier@gmail.com>, <councilmandurand@unionvaleny.us>, <councilmanmcgivney@unionvaleny.us>, <councilmanjohnwelsh@gmail.com>

Dear Kerry:

We are in receipt of your email sent this morning. We will review it and get back to you about the merits and the proposal. One point of explanation, when we all met on the Wednesday before last, Erin Hawks said she would like a response from us by Monday (2/3). Then you and I emailed over the weekend and you sent a follow up on Tuesday morning with a cardholder calculation. When I asked you for the data and did not get a response, I assumed that you weren't sending anything so we responded to the offer you described in the



group meeting.

Your email sounded as if the data work had already been completed. My intention was not to waste your time so for that I apologize.

In regards, to the "active users" term, it is not a new proposal. We are substituting active users for "cardholders", a term you said you could not agree with because of the legalities (which is incorrect, but regardless, "active users" is precise).

We will respond as soon as possible.

Thank you.

Betsy

Supervisor Betsy Maas

Town of Union Vale

(845) 724-5600 ext. 110 (office)

249 Duncan Road

LaGrangeville, NY 12540

**From:** Kerry Weller [mailto:[boardpresident@millbrooklibrary.org](mailto:boardpresident@millbrooklibrary.org)]

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 12, 2020 9:03 AM

**To:** Betsy Maas <[supervisor@unionvaleny.us](mailto:supervisor@unionvaleny.us)>; [councilmanfrazier@gmail.com](mailto:councilmanfrazier@gmail.com); [councilmandurland@unionvaleny.us](mailto:councilmandurland@unionvaleny.us); [councilmanmcgivney@unionvaleny.us](mailto:councilmanmcgivney@unionvaleny.us); [councilmanjohnwelsh@gmail.com](mailto:councilmanjohnwelsh@gmail.com)

**Subject:** Letter from Libraries

Good Morning -

Please see attached for a letter from our libraries.

Sincerely,

Kerry Weller, Acting President

Board of Trustees

Millbrook Library

3 Friendly Lane

Millbrook, New York 12545

(845) 677-3611

[Quoted text hidden]

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**Kerry Weller** <[boardpresident@millbrooklibrary.org](mailto:boardpresident@millbrooklibrary.org)>

Wed, Feb 12, 2020 at 9:17 PM

To: M DeBellis <mdebellis@laglib.org>, Erin Hawks <boardchair@laglib.org>, Carol Fortier <cfortier@beekmanlibrary.org>, Bitsy Scigliano <bscigliano@beekmanlibrary.org>, Laurie Buckley <director@doverylib.org>, Sharon McGreevy <samgem06@gmail.com>, Rebekkah Smith Aldrich <rsmith@midhudson.org>, "Bach, Ellen" <ebach@woh.com>, Thomas Finnigan <director@millbrooklibrary.org>

My response to Betsy.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Kerry Weller** <boardpresident@millbrooklibrary.org>

Date: Wed, Feb 12, 2020 at 9:16 PM

Subject: Re: Letter from Libraries

To: Betsy Maas <supervisor@unionvaleny.us>

Dear Betsy:

Thank you for confirming receipt of the email. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Kerry

[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]





## The Millbrook Library

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Rebekkah Smith Aldrich  
Executive Director  
Mid-Hudson Library System  
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

March 20, 2020

Dear Ms. Aldrich:

On October 23, 2019, as authorized under the *Mid-Hudson Library System Direct Access Plan*, the Millbrook Library Board of Trustees approved the submission of a claim of serious inequities and hardship resulting from services to the residents of the Town of Union Vale. Following this request, there was ongoing communication with the Town of Union Vale Supervisor in an effort to reach an agreement and avoid the need for restrictions. These efforts were not successful, and at this time, we would like to renew our claim of serious inequities and hardship and request that restrictions be implemented as soon as possible.

As a reminder, this claim of serious inequities and hardship is based on:

- 1) The Town of Union Vale is unserved by a chartered public library and provides less than the median or average funding for public library services provided by contract with neighboring community libraries.
- 2) More than 5% of the total circulation of library materials by the Millbrook Library has been provided to the residents of the Town of Union Vale.
- 3) Under the *Mid-Hudson Library System Direct Access Plan*, the Millbrook Library may claim “serious inequities and hardships” due to non-residents making excessive use of a libraries’ resources that affects the libraries’ ability to provide direct and on-site access to their residents.
- 4) Despite good faith efforts to renew our contract with the Town of Union Vale, no agreement has been reached to date.

The Millbrook Library Board of Trustees is requesting the Mid-Hudson Library System verify this claim of serious inequities and hardship and proceed with developing a plan for restrictions and remedies. We understand that the plan for restrictions and remedies requires the approval of the MHLS Board of Trustees and that you will need to confer with the MHLS Directors Association.

Do not hesitate to contact me regarding this request.

Sincerely,

Jodi Fernandes  
Board President