

A FEW KEY POINTS RAISED BY COMMUNITY MEMBERS:

- The Library Board has asked us to vote before knowing the true cost of what the proposed library will be.
- We won't know the actual committed cost until August. But they want you to vote now.
- There is an estimate of \$16.6M, but it is old and likely does not include the inflation rate in construction.
- Building costs face highest inflation in decades – up 20% in 2021 & increasing faster in 2022.
- This could have us overpaying for a building, with a size we don't even know is justified by actual usage.
- The costs to taxpayers will see the library tax rising 340%, for at least 20 years to pay off the loan.
- The annual budget (tax) will go from \$735,000 to over \$2.5 Million – which is twice what Pittsford pays.
- The tax rate homeowners & businesses pay goes from \$.27 to \$.82 per 100k of assessed value, 300% higher.
- Library costs and taxes are already increasing faster than our paychecks – up 50% in 4 years!
- \$600k of that money spent to design this and to prepare for construction. Yet, we haven't voted.
- Transparency is the biggest concern; the Library Board President has refused to release usage or the space study used to justify a 2.5x sized building. We have asked the Board directly and filed a FOIL request.
- Library Board President also will not allow an independent review of the usage statistics/space study.
- There are also questions with the process from the start, with only 600 people saying they want a bigger Library out of 25k residents. This was done through a non-scientific survey of about 700 people.
- After the survey, they requested input at the library and other places asking people to pick features like “a coffee shop” without knowing the cost.
- This information was then given to a designer, with no direction on budget. This was confirmed by the Board President/Library director at a recent videotaped board meeting.
- Essentially, this is how we went from “the Library is cramped” in the survey, to a proposal that is 2.5 times as big. Most of us would agree that the library is small & could be expanded through moderate proposals
- Unfortunately, the Board is unwilling to look at moderate proposals – “all or none” attitude.
- Library Board is also unwilling to have a capital campaign and raise 50% through fundraising as opposed to 2% prior to coming to the taxpayers. Current proposal is 98% paid for by taxpayers.
- Proposal includes a 900' coffee shop. The build cost of this space is \$600k, but rent is \$6k a year. It will take 100 years to pay for. Subsidizing their costs vs. other local coffee shops that pay taxes. Is that fair?
- Local businesses will have significant TAX increases. Many barely surviving & recovering from the pandemic.
- Library foot traffic and parking lot usage reviews does NOT support needing this sized library. The Library Board has REFUSED to share the actual Library usage. Or the purported space study justifying 2.5x size.
- We are being asked to vote on a one-year budget, but the Board is committing taxpayers to a 20- year loan.
- This is “Taxation Without Representation”. The Library Board votes for themselves – we taxpayers do not vote for the Library Board. But yet they can tax us?