

Winthrop Public Library & Museum

FY 2009 Budget

PRESENTED TO THE TOWN COUNCIL

MARCH 4, 2008

PRESENTED BY:
JOHN R. CRONIN,
LIBRARY DIRECTOR

Mission Statement

The Mission of the Winthrop Public Library & Museum (*"The Library"*) is to provide comprehensive free public library service to all citizens of Winthrop. The Library aims to provide a wide variety of print and non-print media for recreational, as well as, formal and informal study. The Library also aims to preserve and provide access to its historical collections in the Museum. As an educational institution for citizens of all ages, the Library supports learning and self-development among the widest possible population.

Budgetary Issues

- The Library's overall budget usually represents only 1.4% of the Town's annual budget
- Inflationary cost of library materials (e.g. books, videos, CDs and large print books)
- Rising cost of payroll and benefits
- This funding keeps the library operating at a minimal level of service and staffing, keeps the library operating at a "subsistence" level wherein necessary services are provided, but often wherein subsidiary tasks are delayed.

Budgetary Issues (cont.)

- Due to staff shortages, the library will not be able to perform tasks which keep library service up-to-date, such as:
 - Re-shelving of library materials upon their return
 - Processing, in a timely fashion, new library materials,
 - Maintain the integrity of the collection (e.g. shelf-reading)
 - Maintenance of the Library building is becoming more difficult within the present budgetary restrictions, delaying:
 - The purchase of necessary electrical equipment, such as bulbs and ballasts, and
 - In repairing parts of the Library building, especially the two roofs of the building.

Library Statistics

As of the end of 2007

- The library collections holds:
 - 86,159 books
 - 2,439 audio-cassettes
 - 2,499 videos & DVD
 - 400 miscellaneous materials
- Library circulation reached 75,420

As of February 1, 2008

- 10,335 individuals hold Winthrop Library Cards; over 55% of the Town's population
- On an average day, between 50 and 60 people enter the library to use the public computers, perform research tasks and to read magazines and newspapers.

NOBLE – North Of Boston Library Exchange

The North Of Boston Library Exchange (NOBLE) is a cooperative effort of 28 area libraries founded to improve library services through automation. Seventeen public libraries, ten academic libraries and one special library are members of NOBLE.

NOBLE was the **first automated resource sharing network** in Massachusetts and the first Massachusetts library network on the Internet. Since its founding over twenty years ago, NOBLE has **cost-effectively improved service** to its libraries and their users **through technology**, in ways not possible at its inception.

NOBLE is governed by its member libraries who approve the annual budget, establish NOBLE policies and elect officers.

Areas of Potential Growth

- Increasing the amount of personal computers available at the Library
- Converting the computers to Wireless Technology
- With the restoration of the Museum complete, an archival position should be filled as soon as possible
- With the addition of more computer technology, the Library needs a full-time computer technology person
- With the space limitations of the present building, there should be some planning, long- or short-term for building expansion

Thank you.

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Q & A