Chester Springs Library

(At Historic Yellow Springs)
1685A ART SCHOOL ROAD • CHESTER SPRINGS, PA 19425 • (610) 827-9212

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November 5, 2010

Board of Supervisors
West Pikeland Township
1645 Art School Road
Chester Springs, PA 19425

Gentleman:

2010 has been a difficult year for the Library. Entering the year, we faced State and County funding cuts of more than 20%, creating an estimated cash flow shortfall of approximately $25,000. To address this shortfall, we have done a number of things during the year:

1. We reduced our business hours by 7 hours per week, opening late on Tuesdays and Thursdays and eliminating Wednesday evening hours.

2. We cut some summer story time programming for children.

3. We instituted a $1 charge for DVDs; previously they were free.

4. We asked the Friends of the Library to hold an additional fund-raising event, which, at great effort, they generously did.

5. And finally, very reluctantly, but having no choice, we took money from our small endowment fund in order to close the gap.

Now, as we plan for 2011, the picture is even worse. We have been advised by the State and County that funding will be cut again in 2011 by at least another 14%. While we will continue to look for ways to reduce our costs further, there are limits to hour-cutting, fund-raising, and our endowment fund. Continuing down these paths to make operating ends meet is not a sustainable proposition. Unless public funding is increased

cc: BK

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in the very near future, the Library will cease to be viable as a full-time institution.

Early in 2011 we intend to convene a group of interested and knowledgeable residents to help us investigate whether there are ways to put the Library on a sound financial footing despite the continuing reduction in State and County funding. The Board of Supervisors must be an essential part of that effort and we invite you to join us in the task.

In the meantime, if Township funding for the Library in 2011 remains at 2010's level of $21,600, the Library will have an operating shortfall of between $25,000 and $30,000, depending on the final amounts to be received from the State and County. We recognize that the Township faces its own budget challenges, but we also believe that the Chester Springs Library is a valuable asset to the residents of West Pikeland Township and to the Village of Historic Yellow Springs. Indeed, it is one of the mainstays of HYS. Therefore, we ask the Board of Supervisors to authorize 2011 funding in the maximum amount feasible given the Township's own budget constraints. A grant of $30,000 or more would provide a huge assist towards our goal of keeping this unique, home-town Library open and on a sound financial footing in 2011 and beyond. Thank you very much.

Respectfully submitted,

Len Olsen

Len Olsen
For the Board of Trustees of the Chester Springs Library