

Holmes Public Library
Director's Report
February 11, 2021

Hello!

The Holmes Public Library is doing well as we continue to navigate the challenges of the Covid-19 Pandemic. Assistant Director Marie Coady is doing a great job working remotely. Her work on the survey was just what I needed. So much goes on behind the scenes with the website, publicity and all things technology that Marie keeps us moving in the right direction with her expertise and suggestions. The Staff working in the building are doing a tremendous job helping the Library stay open for our patron who sincerely appreciate the opportunity to come in to the building for 15 minutes. We are happy to be here for our patrons.

The Library is applying for an LSTA grant from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners. This Grant "Mind in the Making: Engaging Young Children in Interactive learning and Doing" allows libraries to carry out a program to establish or enhance play spaces for children ages 0-6. We hope to create three play spaces aimed at early learning and social interaction among children and their caregivers. When the library closed back in March all the toys in the play area were discarded. This grant will allow us to replenish this area with all new toys for a better learning experience for our toddlers. The other two spaces are a quiet reading space and an Exploration Station within the Children's Area. An Exploration Station is a space for stimulating activities for children K-2. Assistant Director Marie Coady, Children's Librarian Holly Iannucci, and Library Director Jean Gallant attended a workshop presented by the MBLC to learn how to write a strong grant application. Shelley Quezada has been assigned our grant consultant and will be guiding us through the process. A draft is due on February 18th. Please let me know if you would like a copy of this draft. This is a one-year grant ranging from \$7,55 to \$10,000. Please wish us Good Luck!

FY22 budget for the Holmes Public Library has been submitted to the Finance Committee. The FY2022 Municipal Appropriated Requirement for the library to maintain its State certification and receive the full amount of state aid is \$335,954. The Library is requesting \$336,000 for FY22 to meet this certification. This is an increase of \$4,000 from our FY21 budget. This budget includes step increases in Wages and Salaries for current staff in FY21. This budget reflects the 35 hr/wk Circulation position that was vacated due to the Pandemic. There are no capital plan requests in this budget. There is \$500 is the "XFUNDS" line item to close the gap between a level funded budget and the State certification requirement. This budget reflects a reduction of \$286 in total expenses from the FY21 budget. The Finance Committee has approved the expense portion of the budget because of this reduction. They are waiting to approve wages and salaries until there is a more complete picture of the town's financial situation.

A Capital Plan request for approximately \$2,300 has been submitted for the replacement of 3 computers in FY22. The Library currently has 6 computers still running on Windows 7.

The good news is that the first of our state aid payments is on the way. The first payment is approximately half of the total payment and is in the amount of \$7196.27. Last year we received \$11,987.57. It looks like there will be a significant increase in state aid this year!

Respectfully submitted,