

The Hornell Library Budget Crisis

City of Hornell Common Council budget vote eliminates the city's funding for the Hornell Public Library on March 31, 2020

- In light of the COVID-19 Pandemic, City deems Library services as nonessential
- Loss of 1/3 funding in the sum \$107,000.00
- \$196,000.00 is needed for operating costs of the Library from April 1 to October 31 (\$107,000.00 + \$89,000.00 from grants, State, Library trusts, patron donations)
- Estimate \$29,500.00/month for funding the Library full time
- November 1 to March 31 the Library operates on funds acquired from a School Library Tax Levy in the amount of \$184,700.00

Hornell Public Library will remain closed until November 1 due to the loss of \$107,000.00 unless alternative funding is obtained

- The Hornell Library is a NYS Chartered Library that is required to operate at a minimum of 35 hours for partial openings due to the size of Hornell's population. The library stands to lose its NY State Library System Charter if it operates below the 35 hours minimum.
- No Charter means a library cannot network with other libraries for loaning/borrowing books and loss of considerable state funding
- 35 hours of operation is not possible due to the Library's loss of funding.
- 15 employee layoffs

Library Services currently available during COVID-19 Shutdown and Library Closure from City funding cuts

- Library computer databases are available for Virtual Reference, America's News (newspapers), Evening Tribune, Freegal for Music downloads, Hornell School Yearbooks
- Electronic books, movies, audiobooks accessed through Overdrive Application
- Books can be returned via book drop
- No fines will be charged
- Library Cards are available by calling (607) 324-1210 between 10 AM to 2 PM

Library Board of Trustees rollout of Library Emergency Crisis Management Plan (LECMP)

- Create financial strategies that will allow the Library to serve the public in a reduced capacity
- Create a financial plan to restore funding for full operation and normalcy

LECMP is comprised of three phases

- Emergency Phase
 - Initiate Emergency Shutdown/Pandemic Response Plan
 - Implement reduced funded Library budget to pay building maintenance costs, employee unemployment insurance costs,

- Weekly meetings with City Hall using their resources for finding alternative funding
- Diminished progress of interior restoration involving upgrades in technology hardware and audio-visual equipment, new carpet installment, shelving modifications, room redesigns, and painting.
- Recovery Phase
 - Exploring alternative financial sources for Library funding
 - Contacting State and Federal Agencies
 - Filing Payroll Protection Plan Pandemic Stimulus Package (pending)
 - Filing Disaster Loan Assistance (SBA) Pandemic Stimulus Package (pending)
 - Changing the Library status from a partial City Municipal/School District Tax District Public Library to a full School District Tax Library
 - Past Library funding was part City of Hornell Municipal (\$107,000.00) and part School District Tax levy (\$184,000.00)
 - Future Library funding would come from a School District Tax levy at a cost of \$46 per \$60,000 assessed home value
 - Most Public Libraries in NYS are funded by a School District Tax Levy. Hornell is one of only three Libraries in NYS that is funded in part from a City Municipality and in part by a School District Tax levy
- Restoration Phase
 - School Tax Levy passes in mid-summer 2020
 - Library restored to full operation by November 1, 2020