

# Case for Expansion of Libby Library Referendum Question No. 5



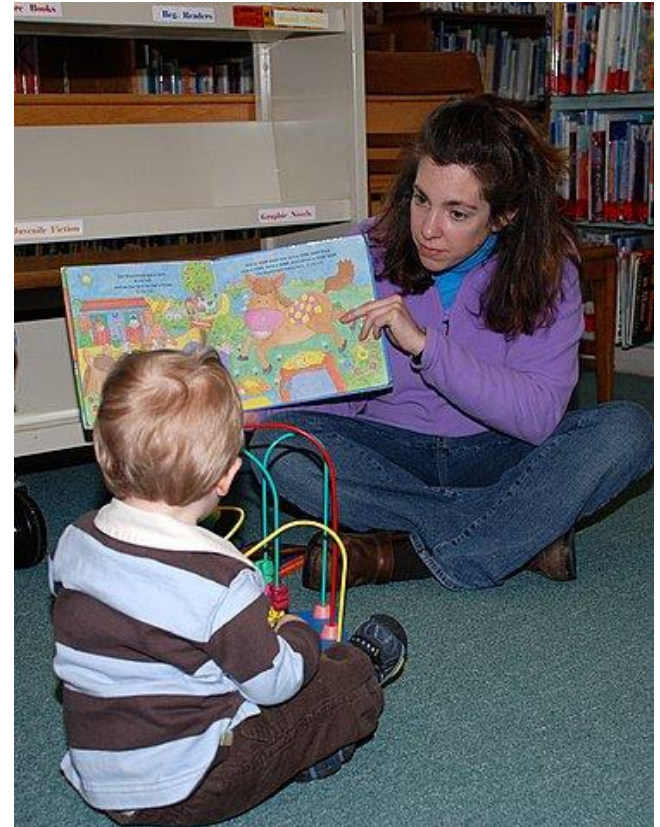
# Referendum Question No. 5

**This question authorizes the issuance of bonds not to exceed \$2,000,000 and the acceptance of donations from the Old Orchard Beach Free Library Association\* and other sources for the construction of an addition to the Edith Belle Libby Memorial Library.**

*\* The Board of Trustees of the Edith Belle Libby Memorial Library*

# Life-Long Learning

The Libby Library's mission is to support services and provide materials that will promote life-long learning and personal enrichment for all members of the Old Orchard Beach community. Libby is recreational library.



# 100-Year History

- The OOB Free Library Association was established more than 100 years ago by the Women's Christian Temperance Union. It opened in donated space on Old Orchard Street in the Porter Building.
- When Town Hall was built, the library moved there and occupied two rooms for more than 50 years. A memorial gift from former town selectman Frank Libby made the Library's present building in Memorial Park possible.
- The library site in Memorial Park was part of a land-swap approved by the people of OOB. A space of 4,000 square feet was designated for a library.
- The Edith Belle Libby Memorial Library building was dedicated in February of 1956.

# Diverse Community

**Diversity** would be the best word to describe our community and the people served by the Library.

- **Year-Round Residents**
  - *Seniors, Working Professionals, Families, Students*
- **Winter Renters**
  - *Students*
- **Summer Residents**
- **Summer Visitors**
- **Summer Workers**
  - *International Students*
- **Transitional Housing Facilities**
- **Group Housing Facilities**

# Patron “Favorites”

- Wireless Internet & computer access
- Growing DVD collection
- Adult fiction – large print, mysteries, romance, best-sellers, historical fiction
- Non-fiction – political commentary, cook books, true crime, camping, history, spirituality
- Book Shed & swap books

# Patron Requests

- More computers, access longer than one hour
- More space for computer use
- Computer classes
- Book drop for media – DVDs, CDs, videos
- More large-print non-fiction
- More non-fiction DVDs – nature programs
- E books
- Book clubs for adults and children
- Space for community meetings

# National Library Trends

- In response to the public's needs and requests, it has become necessary for libraries to reinvent themselves—to re-allocate space to respond to changes in technology—computers, Internet, media, electronic books.
- In more difficult economic times, libraries are a vital place for people to access job listings, re-training programs and other career information.
- Libraries continue to play a vital role in community programming and are a desired and safe meeting place.

# Libby Library Stats

- Annual library circulation has increased from 15,000 to 37,000 during the last 50 years.
- The town's population has tripled since the library opened in 1956.
- Year-round daily census averages 100+.
- In the last three years, the winter daily census has increased. Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 100+ people is not uncommon.
- In the summer, 200+ people is not uncommon.
- Increased use of technology with corresponding decrease in space for programming.

# One Reading Chair...

There is only one reading chair in the Library. It was new when the building opened 55 years ago. It is still very comfortable, but there is only room for one.



# One Reading Table...

The one table for reading is frequently usurped for lap tops. People don't have space to enjoy chess or other games. The

*(Library has an impressive, extensive collection of chess books.)*



# One Work Table...



# Comfort & Privacy...

Public and wireless computer work stations have no privacy dividers. Patrons work “elbow to elbow.”



# Technology Then

- In 1994 the Library's technology consisted of
  - a roll-feed copier,
  - a mimeograph machine,
  - a typewriter, and
  - a single telephone line.
- Ten years ago the Library housed a small collection of phonograph records and music tapes.

# Technology Now

- Today the Library is home to:
  - six staff computers,
  - six public access computers for adults—three are laptops,
  - two public access computers for children,
  - a computerized card catalog, and
  - four printers,
- As well as DVDs, audio books—CD and cassette format, music CDs and VHS tapes.
- The Library also has a Web site, Facebook page and wireless Internet access for those who bring their own computers to the building (or parking lot.)

# Volunteer Involvement

- Volunteer needs: book club facilitators, computer class trainers/tutors, newsletter editor, fundraisers, cleaners, book and movie reviewers, readers for kids, “shelvers and shifters.”
- Because there is no space for volunteers to work, we often have to refuse offers of help from potential volunteers.
- There is no end to the projects that the Library has on an ongoing basis! Ideas for special programming, and community education and outreach are limitless.

# Board Vision

Capital expansion to meet needs for:

- Library programming
- Technology and media
- Patron/public comfort and privacy
- Community access
- ADA compliance (Americans w/ Disabilities Act)
- Volunteer involvement

# Capital Expansion Plan

- National library standards set a 20-year horizon for projecting capital expansion needs.
- The Libby Library plan is based on demographic data, including population statistics, which set standards for space and seating needs.
- The building would blend into Memorial Park, in space allocated by the people of OOB for a library, and would allow patrons to take advantage of this beautiful setting.

# Capital Expansion Plan

- Designed with economy, aesthetics and efficiency in mind.
- Incorporates the latest green technology and environmentally-friendly construction including geo-thermal heating, grass roof and passive solar panels on the windows.

# Expanded Library Will Have:

- **A Children's Room**

That incorporates a performance space and access to a patio that will allow for expanded children's and teen programming.

- **A Designated Computer Area**

- Centralized computer stations that will allow for computer classes, tutoring, and provide computers for use longer than one hour.

# Expanded Library Will Have:

- **A Quiet Room**

Dedicated for literacy education, tutoring, tax assistance, proctored tests and distance learning.

- **An Adult Reading Room**

Will provide comfortable seating (for more than one patron) and tables for work, reading and games.

# Expanded Library Will Have:

- **A Display Area**

With adequate space to exhibit the work of local artists and post information on community events and resources.

- **A Community Room**

Free meeting space, accessible when the Library is closed, for: library programming—book discussion groups, film discussion groups, movie nights, author events; an additional cooling and warming station for the town; and a place where residents can showcase and share their talents.

# Current Library Funding

- The Library derives 99% of its operating budget from the Town of OOB. The annual budget is \$225,000.
- A small annual giving initiative in 2010 raised \$1,675 that provided for the replacement of laptop computers.
- The Annual Arts and Crafts Show has raised an average of \$1,500 over the last few years for the Building Fund.
- The Friends of the Library, through the Book Shed and other initiatives, raise additional monies that total approximately \$1,300-\$1,500 annually.

# Expansion Plan Funding

- The project is anticipated to cost \$2.2 million. \$200,000 has been raised by the Library.
- \$2 million is needed to begin construction on the project.
- The Libby Library requested a referendum on the November 8 ballot that asks tax payers to float a \$2 million construction bond.

This request was approved by Town Council on September 6. A Public Hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, October 4 for Referendum Question No. 5.

# Question No. 5

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# Observations

- It is universally acknowledged that bond interest rates are low. When rates are low, it is a good time to borrow.
- Old Orchard Beach has an excellent bond rating and low debt ratio.
- To begin construction, the full amount for the cost of the project is needed. Without Town support, the expansion will not be possible.

# Bond Calculations

Estimated interest of 4%, for a 20-year maturity, estimated costs of the bond issue are:

Principal: \$2,000,000

Interest: \$833,753

Total Debt Service: \$2,833,753

# Implications for Town Budget

The OOB Town budget is approximately \$25 million.

If Question No. 5 passes on November 8, the “library bond” would add an additional \$142,000 to the budget annually.

This is a .5% increase, or half of one percent.

# Implications for Mill Rate

The current mill rate is \$13.40.

The “library” bond would increase the mill rate to \$13.47, an increase of 7¢ per \$1,000.

# Implications for Tax Payers

- Taxes would increase \$7 per \$100,000 on the value of homes and businesses.
- *Example:* For a property valued at \$200,000, the tax payer would see an increase of \$14.
- \$14 is less than the cost of one new hardback book or one new release DVD.

# What is the Library Worth to You?

- How much would you pay out-of-pocket for your library services?
  - Borrow 4 books a year – save \$68
  - Borrow 4 movies a year – save \$20
  - Borrow magazines – save \$12 to \$35
- Visit [www.ooblibrary.org](http://www.ooblibrary.org), use the “Return on Investment” calculator and find out what the Library is worth to you.

# Community ROI

In their 2009 *Public Library Annual Report*, the Maine State Libraries organization calculated that Maine libraries return \$6.29 for every dollar that Maine communities invest in them.

# Expansion Observations

- There is no space in the expansion plan that will not be used immediately.
- The plan is right-sized for the needs of Library patrons:
  - expanded computer space,
  - dedicated children's room,
  - quiet room for tutoring, counseling, testing and distance learning,
  - community room for programming, and
  - additional library seating

# Community Investment

- Good schools, a beautiful park, a fine library and a thriving business district attract home buyers who care about keeping their properties up, supporting local businesses and participating in the life of the community.
- This project is about “investing” in our citizens and community. It is not just a financial investment.
- Voting “Yes” on No. 5 is also about reaffirming what has been important to our town for 100 years—libraries, reading, learning, children, families, discovery, community discussion, art, volunteerism.

# Expansion Outreach Efforts

The Library is a true community resource that benefits every person living in, working in, or visiting our Town.

During the last four months, passionate volunteers and staff have:

- met with business, church, civic and community groups to state the case for support of the expansion project
- Worked “quietly” on named giving solicitations
- Identified volunteers interested in working on aspects of the expansion project
- Continued daily to provide our community with needed and valued library services

# Call to Action

- Come to the Public Hearing on Tuesday, October 4 and express support for the expansion project.
- On Tuesday, November 8, vote “Yes” on Question No. 5 for a \$2 million construction bond for the Library’s expansion. (If you are not registered to vote – register!)
- Talk with your family and friends about their support of the capital expansion. If they have any questions, encourage them to talk with the Library Director Eileen McNally.
- Make a donation to this worthwhile community project!
- If you don’t have a Library card or have not been to the Library in a while, come on down.

# Thank You!

- Thank you for hosting this presentation and allowing us to talk about a community resource near and dear to us.
- We thank the many people who have already contributed money and volunteer hours to this endeavor, and we ask you to do even more!
- We welcome any questions about this project anytime!