



106 Washington Avenue, Oshkosh, Wisconsin 54901-4985

MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 14, 2019
TO: Oshkosh Public Library Board of Trustees
FROM: Jeff Gilderson-Duwe
RE: OPL 2020 operating budget outlook

As I write this memo on July 14, very little about the library's 2020 operating budget outlook is clear. I am preparing the documents for the board's July 25, 2019 regular meeting much earlier than usual, as I am taking vacation leave from July 16 through July 24. I will return in time to attend the board meeting.

As of this date, I have not received the City of Oshkosh's budget assumptions. Thus, I do not yet know about expected city wage and salary increases; medical or dental insurance premium increases; utility rate increases; or insurance premiums for such coverage as building damage or boiler failure. I also have not yet conducted a projection of actual year-end expenditures, which is a crucial tool for setting targets for non-personnel budget lines.

I was granted some hints about possible ranges for wages / salaries and medical / dental premiums. I do know that our non-levy revenues will decrease due to reorganization of the cataloging and database support staff and its impact upon Winnefox / WALs contractual payments for those services.

Preliminary budget work, based upon worst-case scenario assumptions, point to a potential levy increase request that may not be viewed favorably by city hall or the common council. By the time of the meeting on July 25, 2019, I will have received the city's budget assumptions, and will have had a short time to assess them. Since department budgets must be submitted to the city by August 19, 2019, we will not have another opportunity to discuss library budget strategy before our proposal is turned in.

At the library board meeting, I hope to discuss and receive guidance upon strategies to deliver a 2020 library budget proposal that meets library needs but that also will be acceptable to city funding authorities. I have some ideas about how we might accomplish this, but I would not wish to incorporate them into the budget proposal without the support of the library board.

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