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Subject: FW: Council Finance Committee Questions to Board of Education

Dear Bill:

Please see attached questions the Town Council Finance Committee have regarding the Charter Bill.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you.

Julie Blanchard
Chairwoman, Town Council

Dear Julie,

The following are the questions that were listed in the attachment. The Board of Education's answers are in **blue**.

Thank you,
William Oros, Chairman
Board of Education

What is the effective date of the contract that the Board signed with Charter in January 2016?

Although not listed in the contract, we received confirmation from Linda Moreland at Charter that the effective date was July 1, 2016.

Is it true that the Board has paid for internet service to the Library in their contract for the past 16 years using taxpayer money provided to you in your budgets?

The Board of Education was enforcing an agreement that was entered into on July 24, 2000, by then Superintendent Michael Malinowski, which included the Library's internet service.

Our reading of the contract you signed in January 2016 appears to indicate you agreed to pay an amount of \$400 per month for the internet access provided to the Library. Is that correct?

The actual cost, over the years, has been discounted by 60% according to Board of Education's E-rate (\$160/monthly).

We have been told that the Board was made aware of a change in the billing as of May 2016. Is that correct? **No, the Board was made aware in April 2016.** What changes were made and when did they take effect? **It was determined by Charter that the Library was not eligible for the Board's 60% E-Rate discount, effective July 1, 2016.**

If, in fact, you were made aware of these changes in **April** May 2016, why did you wait until October to raise the issue and why did you choose to approach the Library and not the Town Council to resolve this issue? Isn't this a budget issue? **The Board did not wait until October. On or about May 3, 2016, Robert Carroll contacted Beth Bauer, Finance Director, to let her know that the school district would no longer be able to pay for the Library's portion of the bill effective July 1, 2016. On May 4, 2016, John Elsesser informed the school district that the Library is not a town agency and suggested that we contact Kristi Sadowski. On or about May 9, 2016, Robert Carroll spoke with Kristi Sadowski via telephone to inform her of the issue. On May 12, 2016, Robert Carroll informed the Board's Fiscal Committee of the issue. Consensus was that the Board of Education should not continue to pay for the Library connection after June 30, 2016. On July 19, 2016, Kristi Sadowski informed the BOE Business Office that the Library's Board of Trustees would have to approve payment and that they would not meet until September 2016 to discuss. In light of this information, and in an effort to work collaboratively, the Board continued to pay while this issue was addressed by the Library's Board of Trustees.**

The Library reported that you threatened to shut off their internet service unless they reimbursed you for all of the payments you have made on their behalf since July 1, 2016. Is that true? **No threats were ever made. The library was given several options. The Consensus of the Fiscal Committee on October 13,**

2016, was that the Board would not continue to pay for the connection and would ask for reimbursement of payments made since July 1, 2016.

After reading the contract the Board signed it would appear that you would be liable for the entire bill (as per the contract) whether you shut off the Library's internet or not. **There would be an early termination fee - 50% of the monthly fee for the remainder of the term (\$200/monthly).**

What is your current position on paying for internet service (Charter and CEN) to the Library during this entire fiscal year? **On October 27, 2016, the Board of Education made and unanimously accepted the following motion: "To approve the expense of the budgeted amount of the Booth and Dimock Library connection cost that was in the budget totaling \$160 per month through the end of the fiscal year and authorize the Superintendent to work with the Town Manager on a plan to cover the balance." This amount is 40% of the charge.**

What payments has the Board made for internet service to the Library during this fiscal year? **The Board of Education has made monthly payments in the full amount of \$400/month beginning with July 2016 and continues to do so currently.**

The council's concern is that the Library continue to have uninterrupted internet service as they have been promised and as provided for in the contract(s) the Board has committed to.

The Board of Education looks forward to working collaboratively to resolve this issue for the benefit of the community that relies on the Booth and Dimmock Library as a resource.