

Statement from the Board of Trustees of the Beekman Library

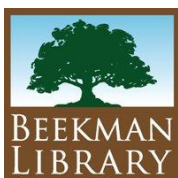
The official proposition for the 2023 budget of the Beekman Library as approved by the Board of Trustees of the Beekman Library on July 18, 2022, presented to the Beekman Town Clerk, forwarded by the Town Clerk to the Dutchess County Board of Elections and voted on by Town residents, requested a tax levy of \$498,500. Upon voter approval of the \$498,500 tax levy, the Director of the Beekman Library filed a tax cap form with the NY State Comptroller's office indicating a tax levy of \$498,500 and stated that the Library Board had passed a tax cap override resolution for 2023.

The Town of Beekman's official budget, approved on November 16, 2023, incorrectly states that the tax levy for the Beekman Library is \$502,500. The Library received \$502,500 from the Town on 3-16-23. This error only came to light when the Library received the check. The Library Director contacted the Board President to make her aware of the discrepancy on Friday, 3-17-23. The Town Clerk was notified of this error on 3-20-23, the next day that town offices were open. As per the Town's attorney, it was determined that the library needed to keep the funds as levied and collected and it was the Library's responsibility to clarify the error with the Office of State Comptroller.

Carol Fortier, Library Director, contacted the Office of the State Comptroller on Monday, 3-20-23 and left a message. Logan Egan from the Division of Local Government and School Accountability, Office of the NY State Comptroller, contacted Carol Fortier on 3-21-23. Mr. Egan told Carol that the tax cap form that was completed for 2023 in the amount of \$498,500 does not need to be changed since it was correct when filed. When the 2024 tax cap form is filed, the amount collected for 2023 will need to be amended to reflect the \$502,500. In addition, Mr. Egan clarified that since the Library Board passed a tax cap override resolution, there was no need for a tax reserve fund.

The Board of Trustees of the Beekman Library will seek the advice of counsel.

Approved by the Beekman Library BOT 3-26-23



11 TOWN CENTER BLVD
HOPEWELL JCT. N.Y. 12533
845-724-3414
WWW.BEEKMANLIBRARY.ORG