

<would be on letterhead>

September 24, 2018

Dear County Executive Bob Ziegelbauer, County Board Chair Jim Brey and County Supervisors:

Thank you for your commitment to the libraries in Manitowoc County. Funding at 100% per State Statutes shows great support for the educational, recreational and cultural services we provide to the residents of Manitowoc County. We hope to maintain this cooperative relationship for many years to come.

Due to physical circulation decreases from 2016 to 2017 to County residents, our funding from the County will see a large decrease from 2018 to 2019. Please see attached funding formula reflecting this decrease. We will receive \$70,792 less in 2019 than what we received in 2018 based on the drop in physical circulation. This is quite a reduction in our annual funding (3% reduction); one that will have a significant impact on our budget. I cannot fault the accuracy in the reduction based on the formula utilized. I would seek your assistance in managing this reduction within our overall budget.

Several of your fellow counties in the state of Wisconsin, six in fact, support library funding even above the 100%. This funding goes to support all the elements which are not covered in a formula based on physical circulation. This could mean circulation of electronic materials; access to online databases supporting online learning; access to public internet; and enrichment through in-person classes and programs. Over the past several years, we have seen increases in all these areas. For example, from 2016-2017 we saw a program attendance increase by 13.5%. Already, in 2018, we have surpassed our programming numbers from 2017 while decreasing the overall amount of programs. This means we are doing more with less while increasing our impact. Additional support would be greatly appreciated to offset these expenses not accounted for in our current funding model.

Board of Trustees

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We understand the proposed option in the former paragraph may not be feasible. For that reason, we propose another alternative. We would appreciate if the County Executive and County Board would consider spreading the \$70,792 reduction in funding to Manitowoc Public Library over the course of several years. This would enable the library to better manage the reduction without taking a substantial hit to our funding in one year. For example, if spread over five years, this would amount to \$14,158 a year. We would also be open to a slightly larger reduction in 2019 which diminishes over the course of five years.

We understand both of these options may pose fiscal difficulties for the County. We have enjoyed a collaborative working relationship with the County for many years, and we call on that collaboration to help us sustain the valuable services we provide to our community.

Thank you for your attention to the viewpoints and concerns represented in this letter, and for considering the request on behalf of myself and the Manitowoc Public Library Board of Trustees.

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Sincerely,

Kristin Stoeger, Library Director
Manitowoc Public Library