

MEMORANDUM

To: Village of Salem Dissolution Study Committee
From: Laberge Group
Date: July 29, 2014
RE: Public Library Options Summary

The following summary report describes the various options for the future of the Bancroft Public Library should the Village of Salem dissolve. This report was provided to the Village of Salem Dissolution Study Committee for discussion when examining the potential future impacts of dissolution.

Bancroft Public Library

The Bancroft Public Library provides library services to Town and Village residents. The Library is chartered through the NYS Department of Regents as a Municipal Public Library. The Library was granted a provisional charter by the Board of Regents of the Education Department of the State of New York on December 13, 2011, and an absolute charter on March 12, 2013. The Library is governed by a five member Board of Trustees and has a separately appointed President and Secretary. The Library employs a part-time Library Director with a salary of \$20,400 per year, and three (3) part-time Assistant Librarians at an annual cost of \$16,100. The 2014-2015 Library budget was \$60,300, and was partially funded by Village (\$13,500), Town (\$12,000), and from taxes raised by a proposition (separate from school budget/taxes) placed before school district voters and channeled through the school (\$19,890), as well as other state aid and miscellaneous sources of revenue.

If the Village of Salem dissolution is approved, the current public library charter will also dissolve and the library will have to apply to the NYS Board of Regents for a new library charter. There are several options, and each will be evaluated carefully before proceeding. The attached chart provided by the New York State Department of Education and New York State Library provides a comparison of types of public libraries.



Types of Public Libraries: A Comparison

Revised February 2010

	Association Library	Municipal Public Library	School District Public Library	Special District Public Library
How Established	By vote of association members or as trustees operating under a will or deed of trust.	By vote of county, city, town or village board; or by petition and referendum.	By vote of school district voters.	By special act of State legislature and vote of special district voters.*
Charter	Regents incorporate by charter.	Regents incorporate by charter.	Regents incorporate by charter.	Regents incorporate by charter.
Registration	Education Department registers. Must meet minimum standards in order to receive public funds.	Education Department registers. Must meet minimum standards in order to receive public funds.	Education Department registers. Must meet minimum standards in order to receive public funds.	Education Department registers. Must meet minimum standards in order to receive public funds.
Tax Funds	May receive appropriation from units of government. Also tax levy by vote of municipal or school district voters. Library should sign contract with appropriating unit. May petition municipal and/or school district tax payers for funds.	Budget approved by county, city, town, or village board. Also tax levy by vote of municipal or school district voters. May petition municipal and/or school district tax payers for funds.	Budget approved by school district voters. May also petition for a tax levy from municipalities.	Budget approved by district voters. May also petition for a tax levy from municipalities, unless enactment legislation specifies otherwise.
Bonding Authority	Not permitted. Requires a special act of legislation through Dormitory Authority of the State of New York (DASNY)	Municipal government may bond if it owns the library building.	School district may bond if it owns the library building.	A municipality may bond on behalf of district if legislation allows.*
Board of Trustees	Number: 5-25. Elected by association members. Term of office: set by charter. Responsible to association membership and to Regents. Residential requirements may be established in bylaws.	Number: 5-15. Approved by municipal governing board; term of office: three or five years if established after 1921.** Responsible to municipal government, public, and Regents. Must be residents of municipality (except village library).	Number: 5-15. Elected by school district voters. Term of office: three or five years (if established after 1921).** Responsible to school district voters and Regents. Must be residents of school district.	Number: determined by enabling legislation. Elected by residents of special district. Term of office: five years or as defined by legislation. Responsible to special district voters and Regents. Residency requirements determined by enabling legislation.
Community Involvement	Public can join association and may vote for trustees.	Public "owns" library; votes for elected officials who are sympathetic to library needs.	Public "owns" library and votes directly for trustees and budget.	Public "owns" library and votes directly for trustees and budget.
Retirement Benefits	May purchase retirement benefits from private vendor. Some may be in State Retirement System if specified in statute.	State Retirement System benefits through municipality.	State Retirement System benefits through school district or independently.	State Retirement System benefits if library district opts to participate.
Civil Service	Employees not covered by Civil Service.	Employees subject to Civil Service Law.	Employees subject to Civil Service Law.	Employees subject to Civil Service Law.

Notes:

* Special district public libraries are created by act of the New York State Legislature. Each one is different and reflects the particular needs and situation of that district. There is no comprehensive legal definition of a special district public library.

** Became effective January 1, 1999.

Abbreviation	Type of Library	Abbreviation	Type of Library
ACi	Association C ity	PCi	Public C ity
ACo	Association C ounty	PCo	Public C ounty
AO	Association O ther	PO	Public O ther
ASD	Association S chool D istrict	PSD	Public S chool D istrict
		PSLD	Public S pecial L egislative D istrict
AT	Association T own	PT	Public T own
		PV	Public V illage