



BUFFALO AND ERIE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

2007 Mid-year Budget Hearing

Budget Overview and Issues

**Erie County Legislature
Finance & Management Committee
June 27, 2007**

2007 Mid-Year Budget Report

Introductory Remarks by Library Director Michael C. Mahaney

June 27, 2007

Honorable Legislators, good morning. My name is Michael Mahaney and it is my privilege to serve as Director of the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library. With me today are Trustee Richard Berger, B&ECPL Treasurer and Chairman of the Budget and Finance Committee, and CFO Kenneth H. Stone. In the audience are other members of the Library Board, representatives of the contracting libraries and key members of the staff.

Those of us who believe we were brought up properly learned valuable and lasting lessons from our parents or our caregivers, and among the most important lessons one can learn and practice as we proceed through life is a very simple, albeit important, one: to say thank you.

Last year, with your help, Erie County and its public library system turned a corner. After two years of crisis, we began to restore what had been reduced and repair what had been broken. We took the first steps toward making our new, leaner library system more responsive and more effective, so it can better serve the diverse needs of our diverse community. While many still depend on us for traditional library resources and services, such as books, magazines, media and general reference, more and more of our residents rely on their local library as their touchstone to technology and their onramp to the Internet. We need to respond to new needs as well as old needs in a constantly changing environment.

Thank you for investing in our public libraries. Last year, for the first time in 3 years, this body increased our annual appropriation by \$500,000, and we used those funds to expand hours of public access, especially at libraries that had failed to meet New York State minimum standards in 2006. We have much farther to go, but we are moving in the right direction, and we are grateful for your partnership and your continuing support.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you again for something else you did for us last year. On December 14th, when the 15 members of the Erie County Legislature voted unanimously to make the Library Protection a permanent local law, I wanted to stand up and cheer! You can't begin to imagine how much that vote meant to the trustees, staff and volunteers who commit themselves daily to delivering quality library services to the people of Buffalo and Erie County.

That vote represented more than just the enactment of legislation. It was a demonstration of your awareness and appreciation of the value of library resources and services within our community, and it affirmed something that I have come to believe over the past 2 years - that the Legislature and the Library are, indeed, committed partners, working in close collaboration to benefit our mutual constituents.

Just a few weeks ago, Legislature Chair Lynn Marinelli, in a column published in the Bee Group newspapers, addressed some questions and misperceptions about library funding in Erie County. She also asked: "...the library board and staffs [to] prepare a realistic neighborhood services restoration plan that covers a three-year timeline. The prioritized and itemized local libraries funding restoration plan would also address compliance with specific state

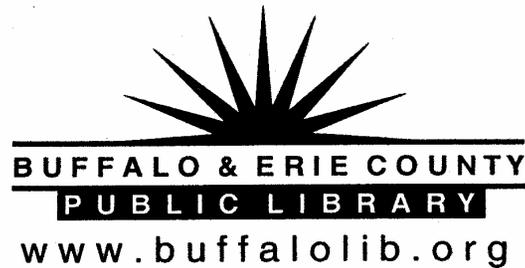
libraries regulations.” She further stated: “There will be a necessity for extensive deliberations on a ... plan, which has community support but does not raise false expectations.”

In the weeks ahead, as we embark on the 2008 budget process, the Library intends to address this request as we construct a reasonable plan to rebuild and redefine our service programs and our infrastructure over the next three years. Your participation in this process is not only welcome; it is essential.

We are partners, after all.

And now Mr. Berger and Mr. Stone can provide you with more detail on the Library’s mid-year budget position.

[See the following handout pages 1-7]



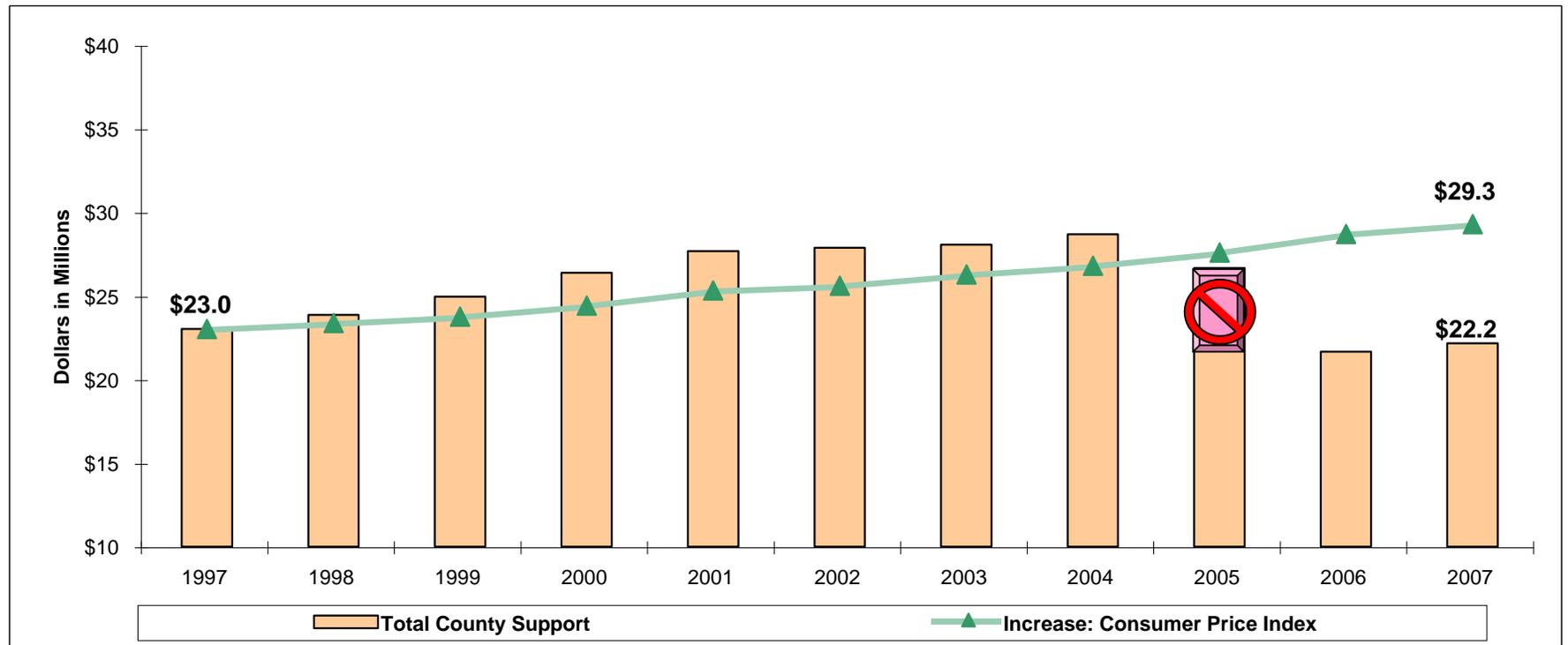
2007 MID-YEAR RESULTS

- ⇒ Library revenue and expenditures operating within overall budget, expect to end year within overall budget.
- ⇒ Library resources continue to be well used, Year-To-Date circulation up 1%, **YTD computer use up over 22%**.
- ⇒ Strong computer use widespread, YTD: up 22% at the Central Library; 65% in City of Buffalo Branch Libraries; and up 11% in suburban contracting libraries. The Library remains an essential resource in bridging the "digital divide."

2007 RESTORATION AND FUTURE SERVICE STRATEGY

- ⇒ 36 libraries funded were those with the greatest capacity to serve the largest number of people while maintaining presence in each major part of the county's 1,045 square miles.
- ⇒ COUNTY LEGISLATURE'S MUCH APPRECIATED \$500,000 RESTORATION ALLOWED ALL COMMUNITIES TO MEET STATE MINIMUM OPEN HOUR STANDARDS AND ASSISTS IN REBUILDING SERVICES AT REMAINING LIBRARIES. **EVEN WITH THIS RESTORATION, THE LIBRARY TAX LEVY IS STILL LESS THAN THAT PROVIDED IN 1997!**
- ⇒ The Library is developing a progressive series of service restoration options for 2008 and beyond that will allow the downsized Buffalo and Erie County Public Library System to successfully meet continued strong public demand within the context of constrained County resources.

B&ECPL OPERATING AND LIBRARY MATERIAL BUDGETS 1997 - 2007



	1997 Adopted	1998 Adopted	1999 Adopted	2000 Adopted	2001 Adopted	2002 Adopted	2003 Adopted	2004 Adopted	2005 Adopted	2006 Adopted	2007 Adopted
Erie County Capital For Library Material	-	-	-	-	4,717,516	4,906,217	5,000,000	4,500,000	5,000,000	-	-
Property Tax for Library Purposes	23,018,144	23,866,460	24,953,953	26,393,455	22,969,980	22,969,980	23,067,481	24,197,118	21,671,833	21,671,833	22,171,833
Total County Support	23,018,144	23,866,460	24,953,953	26,393,455	27,687,496	27,876,197	28,067,481	28,697,118	26,671,833	21,671,833	22,171,833



County funding for Library Materials included in Erie County's 2005 Adopted Budget was not provided to the Library. As this allocation was within the COUNTY Capital Budget, NOT the Library Fund, the allocation was not covered by the Library Protection Act. This resulted in an additional \$5 million gap in 2005 on top of the \$2.5 million reduction in the Library Tax that was part of the County's Adopted 2005 Budget.

Change in County Support From 2006 to 2007: 500,000 2.3%

Change in County Support From 2004 to 2007: (6,525,285) -22.7%

New York State Aid	1,980,495	1,980,495	2,141,072	2,141,072	2,139,572	2,099,201	2,099,201	2,099,201	2,099,228	2,138,572	2,154,567
Use of Fund Balance	413,983	710,763	785,046	419,112	400,000	445,414	550,000	550,000	930,381	550,000	540,050
Fees, Fines, Other Revenue	788,537	854,813	982,708	993,058	985,329	1,047,757	1,546,127	1,635,121	1,369,701	942,724	1,116,795
Total Other Revenue	3,183,015	3,546,071	3,908,826	3,553,242	3,524,901	3,592,372	4,195,328	4,284,322	4,399,310	3,631,296	3,811,412
COMBINED OPERATING AND LIBRARY MATERIAL SUPPORT	26,201,159	27,412,531	28,862,779	29,946,697	31,212,397	31,468,569	32,262,809	32,981,440	31,071,143	25,303,129	25,983,245

BUFFALO AND ERIE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY 2007 BUDGET

Erie County Legislature Funded Service Restorations

Erie County's fiscal crisis cost the Library System \$7 million in total County support that...

- forced the closing of 15 libraries;
- reduced hours of service at almost every remaining location – some libraries were open only 18 hours per week in 2006;
- cost more than 225 full and part-time Library employees their jobs, forcing some hard-working, talented young people with little seniority to leave the area and seek work elsewhere;
- took bookmobiles off the road for the first time since 1947; and
- in 2005 & 2006 decreased book, subscription and media purchases to a minimal level.

Despite the Library's ongoing efforts to downsize, streamline and innovate, without some funding restorations, even more public libraries in Erie County might have closed.

To proactively address this need, the Library developed groupings of service restoration proposals for consideration by Erie County. Starting from the most urgently needed to prevent future library closures, the proposals provided a progressive series of service restorations that would allow the downsized Buffalo and Erie County Public Library System to successfully meet continued high public demand for service at cost of \$2.3 million.

The Erie County Legislature indicated its concern during the 2006 mid-year budget review. Legislators acted to help address this need, while recognizing the County's limited fiscal capacity, by restoring \$500,000 to the County allocation to the Library's 2007 budget. ***THIS MUCH APPRECIATED RESTORATION ALLOWS ALL COMMUNITIES TO MEET STATE MINIMUM OPEN HOUR STANDARDS AND ASSISTS IN REBUILDING SERVICES AT ALL LIBRARIES REMAINING OPEN. EVEN WITH THIS RESTORATION, THE LIBRARY TAX LEVY IS STILL LESS THAN THAT PROVIDED IN 1997!*** Service restorations supported by the \$500,000 restoration are detailed on the following pages.

	Funded Cost	Cumulative Funded Cost
Restorations to Meet New York State Minimum Standards	\$252,947	\$252,947
Restorations to Allow Libraries Remaining Open to Provide More Effective Service	\$247,053	\$500,000

BUFFALO AND ERIE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY 2007 BUDGET

Erie County Legislature Funded Service Restorations

Grand Total Restorations: \$500,000

Library	Total \$	Open Hours				Comments
		NYS Minimum Standard	Base Budget System Funded (red= below Min Standard)	System Restoration Funded	System Funded Hours with Restoration	
Restorations to Meet New York State Minimum Standards	\$252,947					
Newstead (Akron)	\$11,627	35	28	7	35	Restores System funding to provide state minimum standard 35 open hours/week.
Alden	\$15,098	25	18	7	25	Restores System funding to provide state minimum standard 25 open hours/week.
Angola	\$15,299	20	18	7	25	While chartered to serve only the village; the Angola Library, along with the Eden, Collins, North Collins, and Lake Shore Libraries, serve residents of the Town of Evans (outside the village) and the Town of Brandt which do not have their own libraries . Restore funding would raise open hours to 25 hours/week.
Boston	\$15,864	35	20	15	35	Restores System funding to provide state minimum standard 35 open hours/week.
Collins	\$28,053	35	20	15	35	Restores System funding to provide state minimum standard 35 open hours/week.
Concord	\$23,531	35	25	10	35	Restores System funding to provide state minimum standard 35 open hours/week.
Eden	\$27,184	35	25	10	35	Restore to 35 hrs/week to maintain state minimum standards.
Elma	\$36,235	35	28	7	35	Restore to 35 hrs/week to maintain state minimum standards.
Lackawanna	\$3,700	40	32	8	40	Restructuring opportunity lowered net cost. Support for open hours, programming, & repairs.
Marilla	\$28,806	35	20	15	35	Restore to 35 hrs/week to maintain state minimum standards.
North Collins	\$14,751	25	18	7	25	Restore to 25 hrs/week to maintain state minimum standards.
Tonawanda City	\$32,799	40	34	6	40	Restore and reconfigure staffing to fund open hours at state minimum 40 hrs/wk.

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Restorations to Allow Libraries Remaining Open to Provide More Effective Service						
	\$247,053					
Amherst Libraries	\$14,621	60	135	8	143	Restore Wednesday afternoon service at Eggertsville-Snyder (1pm-5pm - 4 hrs).
Aurora	\$2,727	35	35	1	36	Restore 1 evening or weekend open hour per week.
Buffalo Branch Libraries	\$65,213	60	248	12	260	Restore 6 open hours per week at the North Park and East Clinton Libraries (from 18 to 24 open hours per week); provide additional Library Associate workhours at the Merriweather Library, whose circulation and computer use statistics are between two and three times the levels experienced in the North Jefferson Branch it replaced. Schedules restructured to allow all City Branches to be open on Saturdays.
Central Library	\$36,952	60	63	0	63	Restore part-time Children's Room Librarian hours (2 at 812 hours) to restructure/create system-wide childrens and young adult programming.
Cheektowaga	\$14,706	55	92	4	96	Provide 4 hours evening service Thursdays at J. B. Reinstein Library.
Clarence	\$5,181	55	55	0	55	Restore 6 RPT Clerk Typist work hours per week for 48 weeks per year to improve desk coverage at this busy library.
Hamburg	\$28,877	55	76	7	83	Restore Monday service at the Lake Shore library (increase of 7 hours/week - from 21 to 28 hrs/wk).
Lackawanna	\$3,000					Additional operating/programming support.
Lancaster	\$4,224	55	55	0	55	Restore funding for 9 Sr. Page hours per week for 48 weeks to conduct more programming to help offset impact from closed Depew Branch Library.

BUFFALO AND ERIE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY 2007 BUDGET

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		NYS Minimum Standard	Base Budget System Funded (red= below Min Standard)	System Restoration Funded	System Funded Hours with Restoration	
Restorations to Allow Libraries Remaining Open to Provide More Effective Service						
Library System Services	\$46,233					Restore 1 Book Processor to help support demand from rebuilding the Library Materials budget.
Orchard Park	\$7,266	55	56	0	56	Restore 8 Sr. Page hours and 8 page hours per week for 50 weeks to help meet customer service needs during State Mandated minimum 55 hour/week open hours.
Tonawanda Town	\$5,297	55	95	0	95	Restore 8 part-time clerk hours per week for 52 weeks per year to allow librarians to perform more programs.
West Seneca	\$12,756	55	55	0	55	Provide 16 part-time Library Associate work hours per week for 48 weeks per year to allow librarians to perform more programs and improved reference support.

Notes: Budget weekly open hours are those that are funded by the system allocation. Many libraries are continue actively fundraising to increase the number of weekly open hours above system funded levels. For example, the Town of Amherst is funding operation of the Williamsville library (system funding was eliminated in 2006).

BUFFALO & ERIE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM FUNDED WEEKLY HOURS OF SERVICE SUMMARY

2006 AND 2007 SYSTEM FUNDED BUDGETS

Library System	Number of B&ECPL Funded Outlets		Cumulative Number of Open Hours - School Year (Winter)				2007 Change vs 2006		2007 Change vs 2004		NYS Chartered	Ratio - 2007 Open Hours Per 1,000 Pop.	
	2004 & 2005	2006 & 2007	NYS Min	2004	2005	2006 *	2007 *	Hours	%	Hours	%	Population	B&ECPL Funded
COUNTY-WIDE / BUFFALO	1	1											
B&ECPL Central Library	General Building		60	63.0	63.0	63.0	63.0	0.0	0%	0.00	0%	950,265	0.07
B&ECPL Central Library	Popular Materials			63.0	63.0	63.0	63.0	0.0	0%	0.00	0%		
B&ECPL Central Library	Childrens Room			63.0	54.0	46.0	54.0	8.0	17%	(9.00)	-14%		
B&ECPL Central Library	Grosvenor Room			63.0	54.0	46.0	54.0	8.0	17%	(9.00)	-14%		
B&ECPL Central Library	Business, Sci. & Tech.			63.0	63.0	46.0	54.0	8.0	17%	(9.00)	-14%		
B&ECPL Buffalo Branches	15	8	60	574.0	446.0	248.0	260.0	12.0	5%	(314.00)	-55%	292,648	0.89
													Ratio Including Central Library 1.10
CONTRACTING LIBRARIES													
Ewell Free Library (Alden)	1	1	25	30.0	30.0	18.0	25.0	7.0	39%	(5.00)	-17%	10,470	2.39
Town of Amherst	4	3	60	214.0	168.0	135.0	143.0	8.0	6%	(71.00)	-33%	116,510	1.23
Angola Public	1	1	20	35.0	33.0	18.0	25.0	7.0	39%	(10.00)	-29%	2,266	11.03
Town of Aurora	2	1	35	57.0	51.0	35.0	36.0	1.0	3%	(21.00)	-37%	13,996	2.57
Boston Free	1	1	35	35.0	35.0	20.0	35.0	15.0	75%	0.00	0%	7,897	4.43
Town of Cheektowaga	4	2	55	178.0	125.0	92.0	96.0	4.0	4%	(82.00)	-46%	94,019	1.02
Town of Clarence	1	1	55	55.0	55.0	55.0	55.0	0.0	0%	0.00	0%	26,123	2.11
Town of Collins	1	1	35	35.0	35.0	20.0	35.0	15.0	75%	0.00	0%	8,307	4.21
Town of Concord	1	1	35	35.0	35.0	25.0	35.0	10.0	40%	0.00	0%	8,526	4.11
Town of Eden	1	1	35	35.0	35.0	25.0	35.0	10.0	40%	0.00	0%	8,076	4.33
Town of Elma	1	1	35	47.0	43.0	28.0	35.0	7.0	25%	(12.00)	-26%	11,304	3.10
Town of Grand Island	1	1	40	49.0	40.0	40.0	40.0	0.0	0%	(9.00)	-18%	18,621	2.15
Town of Hamburg	3	2	55	132.0	99.0	76.0	83.0	7.0	9%	(49.00)	-37%	56,259	1.48
City of Lackawanna	1	1	40	44.0	44.0	32.0	40.0	8.0	25%	(4.00)	-9%	19,064	2.10
Town of Lancaster	2	1	55	95.0	59.0	55.0	55.0	0.0	0%	(40.00)	-42%	39,019	1.41
Marilla Free Library	1	1	35	35.0	35.0	20.0	35.0	15.0	75%	0.00	0%	5,709	6.13
Town of Newstead	1	1	35	35.0	35.0	28.0	35.0	7.0	25%	0.00	0%	8,404	4.16
Town of North Collins	1	1	25	30.0	25.0	18.0	25.0	7.0	39%	(5.00)	-17%	3,376	7.41
Town of Orchard Park	1	1	55	56.0	56.0	55.0	55.0	0.0	0%	(1.00)	-2%	27,637	1.99
City of Tonawanda	1	1	40	46.5	40.0	34.0	40.0	6.0	18%	(6.50)	-14%	16,136	2.48
Town of Tonawanda	5	2	55	212.0	152.0	95.0	95.0	0.0	0%	(117.00)	-55%	78,155	1.22
Town of West Seneca	1	1	55	57.0	55.0	55.0	55.0	0.0	0%	(2.00)	-4%	45,920	1.20
Subtotal Contract Libraries	36	27		1547.5	1285.0	979.0	1113.0	134.0	14%	(434.50)	-28%	625,794	1.78
SYSTEM TOTALS	52	36	120.0	2,184.5	1,794.0	1,290.0	1,436.0	146.0	11%	(748.5)	-34%	950,265	1.51

* **Notes:** 2006 and 2007 "Base" budget weekly open hours and number of outlets listed are those that are funded by the system allocation, including those 2007 hours added back thanks to the \$500,000 funding restoration approved by the Erie County Legislature in the 2007 Erie County Budget. Many libraries are continue actively fundraising to increase the number of weekly open hours above system funded levels. For example, the Town of Amherst is funding operation of the Williamsville library (system funding was eliminated in 2006). Hours listed in **RED** in the 2006 column were below New York State Minimum Standard, the Legislatures restoration allowed all libraries to meet state minimum open hour standards in 2007.