Background: The fee for a library card for a nonresident has been $75.00 per year for a number of years. This figure has been intended to approximate the per capita cost per taxpayers for library services.

I asked the Finance Director to help me determine what that figure is based on the current budget and the budget from previous years.

Using a population of 9,120 published in the Maine Municipal Association Directory the Finance Director made the following calculations:

1. FY 2020 - budgeted expenses $562,138 - per capita $61.64; less budgeted revenues $1,300 - $61.50 per capita.

2. FY 2021 - budgeted expenses $564,948 - per capita $61.95; less budgeted revenues $1,650 - $61.77 per capita.

3. FY 2022 - budgeted expenses $591,179 - per capita $64.83; less budgeted revenues $2,130 - $64.59 per capita.

Considerations: Thomas Memorial Library has a reciprocal borrowing agreement with area libraries. For several years, the library has had a regional agreement with South Portland Public Library, Scarborough Public Library, Baxter Memorial Library (Gorham) and Walker Memorial Library (Westbrook) to honor each other’s library cards for walk-in library service. Last year, taking our lead, the greater Minerva consortium experimented with a test program to open up opened up reciprocal borrowing throughout the state; not all libraries in the consortium are participants, but virtually all nearby libraries are. Given this fact, there are only three reasons why someone would want to purchase a nonresident card:

1. Their home library charges fines for overdue materials; TML does not.
2. They want access to our subscriptions to digital resources, which require a TML card (Cloud Library, Kanopy, Tumblebooks.)
3. They are a seasonal resident and want to be able to use the library while they are here

Note: We currently have only 2 active paid non-resident cards.

Action Item: We need to recommend a figure for the non-resident fee to the Town Council for the next fiscal year. We can:

1. Keep the fee at $75.00
2. Reduce to the fee to $60 or $65 to closer approximate the per capita tax cost
3. Use another consideration for determining the fee