

Resident Concerns	<h2 style="text-align: center;">Victor and Farmington Taxpayers Need the Facts</h2> <h3 style="text-align: center;">On the \$16.6M Library Proposal and 300% Higher Library Tax</h3>
Transparency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Today may be the first you have heard of this, which is why a group of taxpayers are sending this. The library has been planning for years but we are only now seeing the costs & taxes weeks before voting. • The Board will not share information including the “space study” done to justify a 2.5x sized building, library usage data, detailed costs estimates and other items - despite a freedom of information request. • This from a board that is not elected by taxpayers yet have the power to tax the community.
Costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current cost estimate is \$16.6 million, but final cost not known until August – months after the vote. • Costs will be impacted by high inflation – with building costs up 20% last year and rising faster now. • The design process was a blank slate using OUR checkbook. Features include a \$600,000 coffee shop. • One bank bid with a loan rate reset in 10 years (risk of rate increase likely). State bonds <u>not</u> considered.
Tax impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The tax burden will increase from \$735,000 to \$2.5 million annually. The rate increases from \$.27 to \$.82 per 1,000 assessed value for all homeowners and businesses. Very challenging in today’s economy. • This \$2.5M tax is twice as high as Pittsford (large newer library) & higher than most surrounding towns, even those with much larger populations. Taxpayers asked to fund 98% of total, only 2% fundraised.
Process Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Started with a non-scientific survey and small sample not representative of the 20,000+ residents. • Asked library patrons to put “stickers” on a poster board for desired features, without showing a cost. • Led to features like the \$600,000 coffee shop that will be rented for \$6k/yr. – taking 100 yrs. to payoff. • Never asked “Would you pay \$16.6M for this bigger library and 3 times what you currently do in taxes?” • Spent \$600k of taxpayer money, \$100k just weeks BEFORE the vote for construction. They have <u>moved ahead</u> as if we have already voted by signing a contract on the new property and bank agreements.
Space Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Board said a “space study” was done to justify needing a library this size but refuses to release it. • Public information shows VFL library visits are down 22% in the last 10 years pre-pandemic (2009-2019). • Meeting room usage in the ‘19 Annual report shows usage of 40% yet asking to go from 2 to 7 rooms. • Key reason for a new library was to get “more space” for books but only getting 25% more for \$16.6M.
Options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taxpayers are being told to take it or leave it; the Board is unwilling to consider any other options. • Other options: Less grand building, build in phases, create a capital campaign to reach 50% funding.

Citizen generated message approved by PROPERT TAX WATCHDOG GROUP - Go to www.propertytaxwatchdoggroup.com to learn more.