

This letter is to those who have been paying \$5.00

June 1, 2008

Dear Name of supervisor,

Enclosed with this letter is an agreement based on the total number of cardholders from your township who used their card in 2007. As we mentioned in our correspondence last year, we will be charging \$10.00 per cardholder this year to help defray the cost of providing library service.

If you're concerned about the increase in our annual fee, it may interest you to know that your township began contributing \$5.00 per cardholder in 1981. Based on the Consumer Price Index, that \$5.00 would be equal to \$11.40 today. We do receive penal fines and state aid on behalf of your residents and we appreciate those contributions. Even with them, the cost of providing service to your residents is not covered.

There has been much discussion about library services in the past year. As the use of the Petoskey Public Library by residents outside the City increases dramatically, taxpayers in the City of Petoskey who are paying up to 2 mills, believe the cost of library service should be shared more fairly. As you may know, we are hoping to form a district library with Bear Creek Township in the next year because a district library seems to be the most equitable model for paying for library service. Bear Creek is contiguous to the City, equal to the City in population and has the most number of library users outside the City. Over time we hope to add other interested municipalities whose residents would like to receive service from our Library.

In addition, there is a movement by interested individuals to start a district library in the Harbor Springs School District.

Also, some municipalities have issues with using library cardholders as a basis for charging an annual fee even though this model has been used since 1981.

With all this confusion, our Library Commission is trying to continue to provide service based on the 1981 model as we move toward a district library. We feel that we must increase the fee but do not want to make other changes at this time.

Our current charge for a library card is \$85.00. The Library Commission reviews that charge annually. We hope that you find paying the \$10.00 fee a better option for your residents.

There is also a copy of the Library's 2007 Annual Report enclosed. I hope you will share this with your Board.

Please let me know if you have any further questions or concerns.

Regards,

