

August 21, 2017

Friends of Sitka Public Library
PO Box 6134
Sitka, Alaska 99835

Dear Mayor Hunter and Assembly,

The Friends of Sitka Public Library are concerned about the possible closure of the Sitka Public Library Expansion Project and the transfer of remaining funds to original sources. It is our opinion that the funds set aside for the Library should continue to support the library. There are several points we would ask you to consider.

Donors generously offered support to the Library Expansion with faith that their money would be used for that purpose. Not using the money as set forth is a breach of that legitimate expectation.

The Friends were asked to prioritize an additive list of items removed from the budget. You will find that list attached. In our own fund raising, we assured our donors that items on the additive list would be funded as possible. We have also attached an updated list of library staff concerns related to the project and the alternate 2 landscaping budget.

A new library director is being recruited. It would be to the benefit of the community to get that person on board and let him/her assess remaining project needs.

The charter reads "An appropriation for a capital improvement shall not lapse until its purpose has been accomplished or abandoned." We do not believe the purpose has been accomplished and feel this clearly gives the Assembly the option to leave the money in the Library Expansion account until the funds designated for that purpose are used for Sitka Public Library.

It is our recommendation that the Sitka Public Library Capital Project 90739 remain open until all remaining funds are spent on library-related support.

Thank you for your attention to this issue. Please feel free to contact any member of the Friends of Sitka Public Library Board if we may be of assistance.

Sincerely,
Friends of Sitka Public Library Board
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Barb Bingham 738-3557
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