

## Future of Sea Girt Library Frequently Asked Questions

### **Why is the town recommending Sea Girt leave the Monmouth County Library System (MCL)?**

The amount of tax each town pays to have a public library is set by state mandate based on a town's ratables. Last year Sea Girt paid a County Library Tax of \$411,234. This tax pays for services such as computers and software, purchasing of items for the library, services of a children's librarian. (Estimated value of services received from MCL: \$100,000/year.)

The MCL tax does not cover staff salaries, office supplies, periodical subscriptions, building maintenance or utilities. The MCL tax, which increases every year, is more than we can possibly receive in benefits.

### **How does this affect our taxes?**

Currently, the average tax per household paid to the Monmouth County Library system is \$330, which is the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest in the county.

If the Borough elects not to be part of the County library system, we will no longer be paying a county library tax (average \$330) but instead a Borough library tax will be instituted and the estimated amount of this levy (also set by state statute) will increase to an average of \$610 per household; for a net increase (\$610 - \$330) of \$280 dollars annually. *The benefit is that whatever money is not used to operate the library will accrue to the general borough fund to offset local taxes.* This is how other independently operating libraries, such as Avon and Spring Lake, function. The estimated cost of running an independent library is \$250,000 annually, *less than the current library tax to MCL.*

### **What will an independent library look like?**

The same! With the exception of long-term loan items and office equipment, everything in the library is currently owned by Sea Girt Library.

### **How will I borrow materials that aren't currently in the library?**

There are many sources for independent libraries to borrow from. The source most accessed by other independent libraries is the NJ State Inter Library Loan (ILL) system. We will receive deliveries from ILL as often as we have from MCL.

### **What about electronic downloads?**

Sea Girt Library will join electronic services such as Overdrive and Hoopla for electronic downloads and streaming services.

### **How will the library be run?**

A governing Board of Trustees will be formed which will include the SGES Superintendent, the Mayor (or his designee,) and the members of the current Friends of the Sea Girt Library board. Lisa Luke and JoAnn Johnson will remain as librarians.

### **Will there still be a children's librarian?**

Absolutely! We will hire a children's librarian for a full day on Thursdays.