



Kalamazoo  
Public Library

**kpl.gov**

**PUBLIC MEETING AGENDA**  
**KALAMAZOO PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**CENTRAL LIBRARY VAN DEUSEN AUDITORIUM – THIRD FLOOR**  
**315 S. Rose Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49007**  
**November 25, 2013, 4:00 p.m.**

Approval of Agenda

- I. RECOGNITIONS, RESOLUTIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS
- II. PERSONS REQUESTING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD
- III. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
  - A. Review of Financial Forecasts and Millage Discussion
- IV. OTHER BUSINESS
- V. PERSONS REQUESTING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD
- VI. COMMENTS BY TRUSTEES
- VII. ADJOURNMENT

MEMO

TO: Library Trustees

FROM: Ann Rohrbaugh  
Library Director

RE: **Millage Q & A**

DATE: November 25, 2013

Attached is a Q & A / info sheet with millage information. The financial forecast materials will be reviewed at the meeting.

## MILLAGE Q & A's / GENERAL INFORMATION – November 2013

The smaller of our two millages expires December 31, 2014. The current rate is 1.1801. To continue to levy this millage, it needs to be renewed by the voters prior to its expiration. This millage is separate from the larger one, renewed by the voters in May 2009 at 2.7782, to expire December 31, 2029.

This smaller millage generates about 30% of our property tax revenue or about 28% of our total general fund revenue. Without it, we would need to reduce our general fund budget by about \$3,100,000.

Q: Should we ask the voters to renew the smaller of our two millages / does KPL need the revenue generated by this millage to continue operations?

A: If no, then no further action is needed. The millage will expire December 31, 2014. If yes, the board must determine the specific request to the voters and submit it to the county clerk by February 26, 2014 to be on the May 6, 2014 ballot.

Q: What else will be on the ballot then?

A: We don't know yet. As shared with the board previously, county schools may have an 18 mil enhancement millage renewal on that ballot. That decision will be made in January.

Q: How is the millage vote paid for?

A: All those with issues on the ballot, share the cost. If we are the only issue, the cost has been estimated at \$75,000 by the county clerk.

Q: What would be the ballot language?

A: Our lawyer, Tom Colis at Miller Canfield has drafted this language for us:

***Renewal of 1995 Millage as reduced by the Headlee Amendment***

Shall the limitation on the amount of taxes which may be imposed on taxable property within the

Kalamazoo Public Library District be increased in an amount not to exceed 1.1801 mills (\$1.1801 on each \$1,000.00 of taxable value) for a period of 20 years, beginning in the year 2014 and ending in the year 2033, inclusive, as a renewal of that portion of 1.1926 mills previously authorized by the electors of the Library District in 1995, which has been reduced by the Headlee Amendment to 1.1801 mills, for the purpose of providing funds for Library purposes? It is estimated that 1.1801 mills would raise approximately \$3,128,641 when first levied in 2014.

Q: What should be the duration or length of the millage?

A: Our previous millages have been for twenty years. We could follow that pattern, however a millage less than 2 mils can be in perpetuity. If we ask just for a renewal of the smaller one, it could be in perpetuity.

Q: Could the two millages be combined into one and if so, what would be the ballot language?

A: Tom Colis has drafted this language combining the two millages into one:

***Renewal of 1995 and 2009 Millages as reduced by the Headlee Amendment***

Shall the limitation on the amount of taxes which may be imposed on taxable property within the Kalamazoo Public Library District be increased in an amount not to exceed 3.9583 mills (\$3.9583 on each \$1,000.00 of taxable value) for a period of 20 years, beginning in the year 2014 and ending in the year 2033, inclusive, as a renewal of (a) that portion of 1.1926 mills previously authorized by the electors of the Library District in 1995, which has been reduced by the Headlee Amendment to 1.1801 mills, and (b) the 2.7782 mills previously authorized by the electors of the Library District in 2009, all for the purpose of providing funds for Library purposes? It is estimated that 3.9583 mills would raise approximately \$10,494,110 when first levied in 2014.

Q: If we combined the millages into one and it failed, would we still be able to levy the one approved in 2009, set to expire in 2029?

A: Yes. Our attorney has written: "If the combined millage proposal fails, the library would still have the ability to levy the 2029 millage until its expiration."

Q: If our millage failed in May, when could we go back to the voters again?

A: Our attorney has written: "If the proposal fails in May, there is still time to get the proposal on the August 5 election. The ballot proposal would have to be certified by May 27 (70 days before August election). The library cannot ask for a district wide tax more than two times in any calendar years."

Q: If we waited until August to ask for a renewal and it failed and we went back in November, what else would be on the ballot?

A: November 2014 would be a state wide general election. Locally there would be some school and library board elections, including for KPL trustees.

Q: If we pass a renewal of the small millage and therefore continue to levy two separate millages with different expiration dates, could we at some time, well before they would expire, go to the voters and ask them to combine and renew them?

A: Response from our attorney: "The board can at any time vote to combine the millages. In essence, they would be asking the voters to replace and extend the existing millages. The library would most likely not be able to call the combination of the millages a "renewal" but I wouldn't think that would be a problem."