

Prattsburg Free Library



2023 Proposed Budget

April 12, 2022

Summary

Our proposed budget this year totals \$87,958. If approved, a family with a home assessed at \$100,000 will see their library tax increase by about a dollar. If you have a home assessed at \$150,000, your library tax will increase by roughly two dollars. The proposed tax rate of 43 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value is up slightly from the existing rate of 42 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value.

Budget	Assessed at \$70,000	Assessed at \$100,000	Assessed at \$150,000
Proposed Tax Levy	\$30	\$43	\$65
Existing Tax Levy	\$29	\$42	\$63
Tax Increase	\$1	\$1	\$2

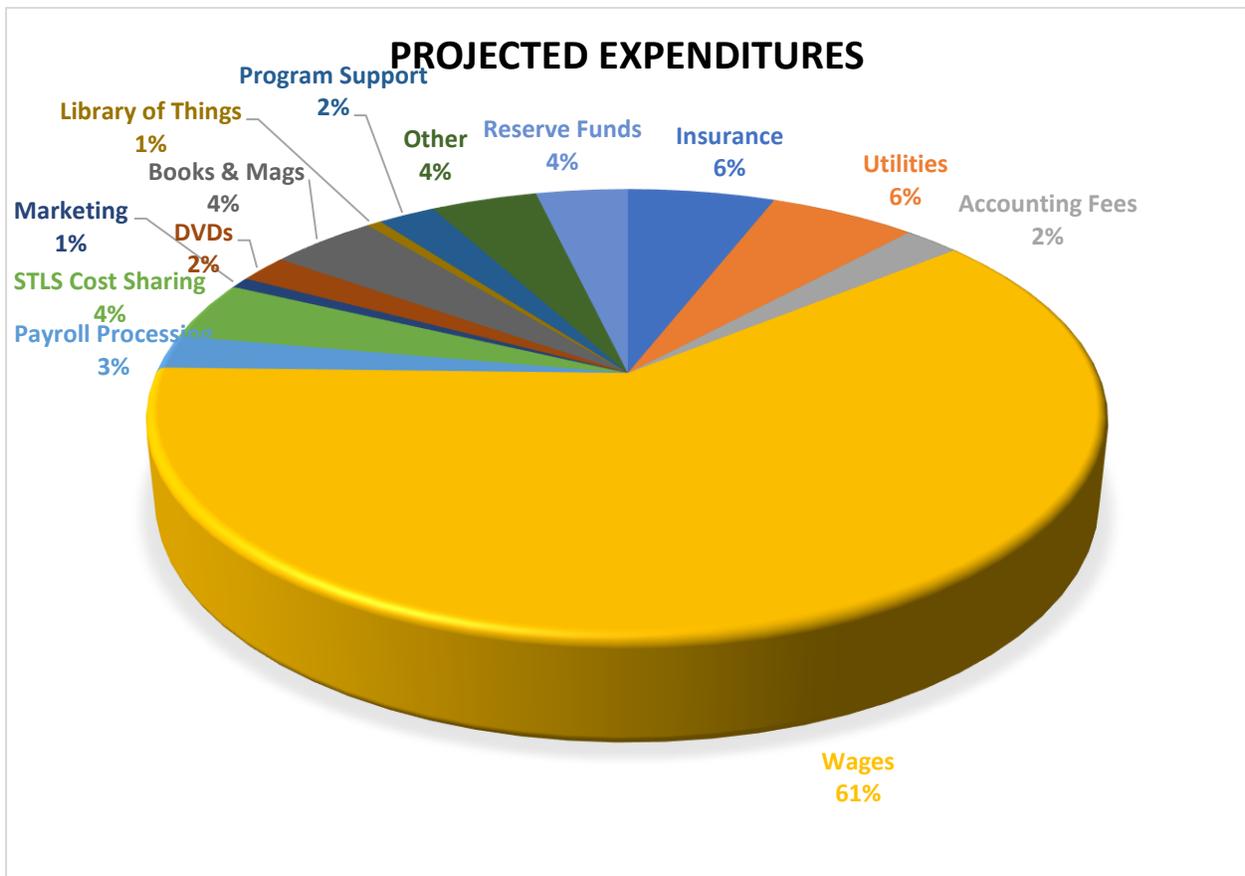
This past year we experimented with new programming. One of our more popular programs was movies in the park. For our first movie, How To Train Your Dragon, we had over 80 movie watchers. We ended the movie programming with Coco for Hispanic Heritage Month. The wonderful Old School Cafe donated one hundred hot and delicious churros for the event. We also did a paint n' sip for adults at the American Legion. They were kind enough to donate the space to us, and our library director was bartender for the night. We will do it again in 2022 with Betelgeuse Pottery crafting said pottery and Dillios catering.

We hope to expand what the library offers in terms of collections and programming. We started the Library of Things last year, and it now includes five loanable Wi-Fi hotspots, a skeleton, and a microscope. The library will expand on the homesteading programming we had last year. This upcoming year we will offer classes on tea fermentation, wet felting, fermenting kimchi, beekeeping, and more! Our goal is to serve every community member we can in our collections and programming.

Projected Expenditures

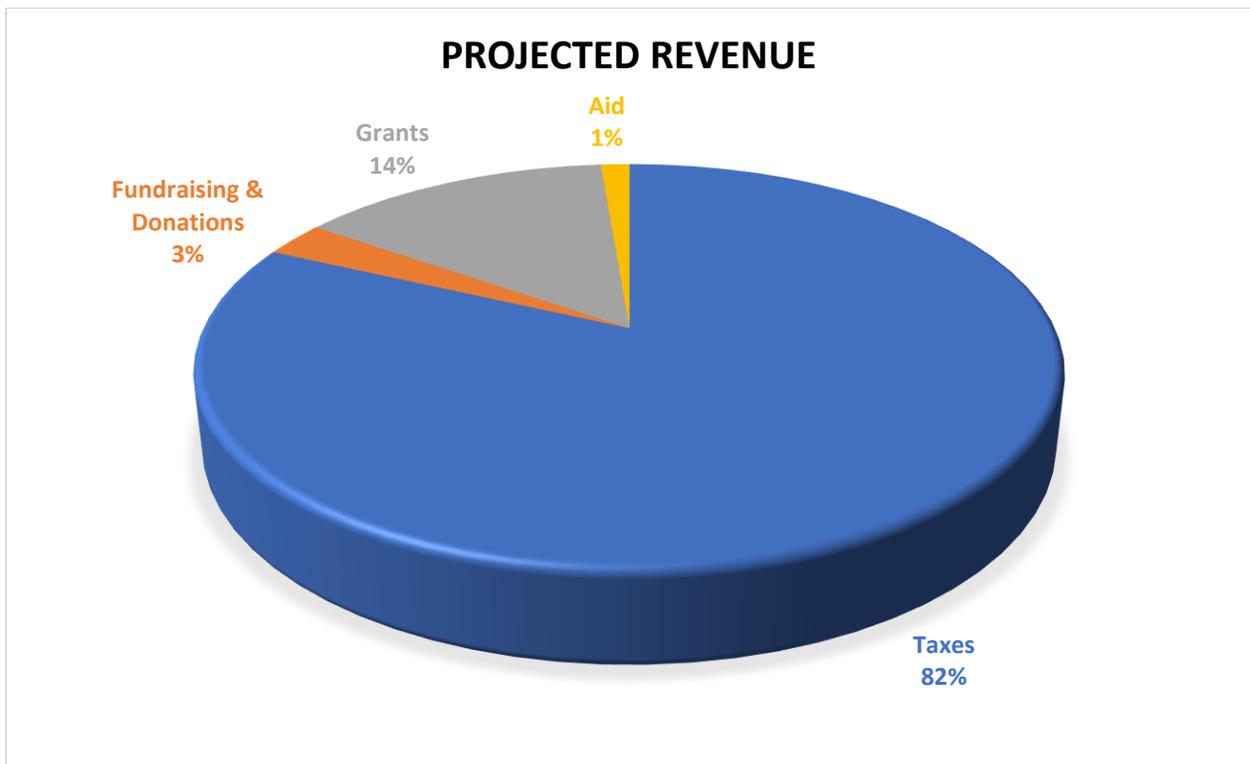
About 70% of our expenditures go directly toward the delivery of programs and services to our community. Insurance, utilities, and accounting fees are some of the bigger expenses that indirectly contribute to the programs and services that we provide. Our wage expense has increased significantly because of minimum wage increases that began in 2016 and continued every year since, raising the rate from \$9.00 an hour to \$13.20 an hour. Moreover, more staff hours are necessary to provide services such as mask and test kit distribution.

Aid for libraries is always under threat; it is always one of the first entities that sees a cut during a time of crisis. The county legislature has held funding flat for 2022 relative to 2021. The allocation retains the 20% cut we received in 2021 as a result of the pandemic. But, once an entity gets cut in a budget process, it is very difficult to get it back. However, we will continue to fight the good fight.



Projected Revenue

Clearly, we couldn't do what we do without your support. Even so, pursuing grants enables the library to expand services and spend tax dollars on essential library services such as providing circulating materials and programs. At the end of 2021, we were awarded a grant from the third round of American Library Association's Libraries Transforming Communities Grants for \$3,000. We began this year with a \$10,000 grant from the NEH & ALA American Rescue Plan Grant for the Humanities. Aggressively pursuing grants is one way in which we honor your support.



The budget vote is Tuesday, May 17th. Polls will be open from 12:00 PM to 8:00 PM at the school. Please come out and support your library, and your school too!