



# HART AREA PUBLIC LIBRARY

WE BELIEVE IN COMMUNITY, SERVICE, ACCESS AND THE PUBLIC GOOD.

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January 27, 2025  
Golden Township Board  
PO Box 26  
Mears, MI 49436

RE: Contract for Hart Area Public Library Services

Dear Golden Township Board Members:

The Hart Area Public Library (HAPL) Board and staff remain deeply saddened by the end of the decades-long relationship between the Library and Golden Township. Board and staff members have heard and continue to hear on a near daily basis from residents of Golden Township that they wish that library services would be restarted.

The money paid by Golden Township helps to fund the services we provide to your township residents. The \$30,000 contract amount that the Library has proposed for this coming fiscal year is expected to make up roughly 7.5% of the Library's revenue while residents of your township made up at least 17% of library borrowing during the last fiscal year. Residents of Golden Township continued to use the Library at roughly the same rate as the City of Hart and Hart Township residents until the end of services on August 5, 2024. Many residents of your township continue to attend library programming, utilize our free services, and take advantage of the limited borrowing allowed for students of Hart schools.

It is not in the best interests of the HAPL to offer services for less than the minimum statutory fair market value, which is 3/10 mill according to the Library of Michigan, and for considerably less than what is paid by the residents of our library district (1.94 mills). For purposes of planning for your township's annual budgeting process, it is expected that annual contract amounts will increase incrementally toward at least the fair market value of services provided. For your convenience, I have included the state computation chart for 2024 that shows 3/10 mill for each municipality as well as the amount the Library received.

Please let me know if you would like to have Library representatives attend a Township meeting or if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Rash  
Library Director  
Hart Area Public Library

Enclosures: 2025-2026 HAPL Library Services Contract  
HAPL Services Flyer  
2024 State Aid Computation Chart