



HART AREA PUBLIC LIBRARY

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

October 29, 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 Board would like to reinstate card services for the residents of Golden Township. At the September 8, 2025 Board meeting, the Library Board identified three possible approaches for renewing the service contract with Golden Township. These options are designed to provide flexibility while moving toward more equitable funding between our legal service area that pays a millage and contracted townships.

Option 1: Establish a contract based on 3/10 mill of Golden Township's taxable value rather than a fixed dollar amount.

Option 2: "Reboot" the contract at \$25,000 per year for two years, followed by an annual increase of \$5,000 for the next three to five years, with the long-term goal of reaching a funding level equivalent to 3/10 mill.

Option 3: Set a contract at \$25,000 per year for two years, with the goal of placing a dedicated library millage on the ballot by the end of that period.

This option maintains current services while offering time for township officials and residents to consider a longer term, voter-supported solution.

We sincerely hope that we can once again provide library card services to your residents. While we understand that this change in pricing represents a significant increase, the Library Board's expectation remains that contract pricing will move incrementally toward the 3/10 of a mill taxable value amount in the coming years. We believe this approach will help ensure access to high-quality library services across our entire service area. To facilitate further discussion, the Library Board has appointed members Amanda Klotz and Todd Metzler to serve as a subcommittee if Golden Township representatives wish to explore these options in greater detail or propose suitable alternatives.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Rash
Library Director
Hart Area Public Library