

**Joint Public Meeting with  
Jaffrey Public Library Trustees & Dublin Public Library Trustees**

Monday, September 18, 2023

5:00 pm

**Attending:**

Jaffrey - Julie Perrin (Director), John Stone (chair), Emily Carr, Deb Weissman (Treas), Jamie Hutchinson, Grace Flesher

Dublin – Chris Sprague, Julie Rizzo, Bess Haire, Maureen Hulslander, Kathy Nichols, Donna Garner, Linda Abram

**Topic: Consortium services**

Consortium model is common in other states, in NH they tend to be large libraries with high cost of membership in consortium. Member libraries must participate in a common ILS system. Biblionix Apollo (used by Jaffrey and Dublin) has a consortium services feature that allows libraries to share collection and patrons – systems recognize each other. NH State Library would support transfer of materials between consortium members without additional expense. Focus of consortium services is on patrons, increasing their access to materials, staff, etc.

Jaffrey has 12 part-time staff, Perrin is the only trained librarian. Jaffrey has 3500 cardholders, Dublin has about 435 cardholders. JPL was in discussions with Marlborough about a consortium arrangement, but they don't yet have Biblionix Apollo so are not ready. Town of Sharon doesn't have a library, and they contract with Jaffrey using a different structure, where Sharon residents have Jaffrey library card.

Website collaboration is not within definition of a consortium, which focuses on reciprocal services, including collection and programs.

In first year of a pilot consortium, there are startup costs associated with training on consortium services, and educating patrons about the services available. Because we don't currently have a Library Director, we would likely have to pay for Library Director assistance with setting up the reciprocal services. Dublin staff would need to be trained alongside Jaffrey staff.

Timeline – agreement phase takes time and energy. Tonight would like to agree on what would be included (scope), after which the parties would negotiate a price for the first year, then Dublin Trustees would vote on whether and when to go forward.

Discussion of Scope – Jaffrey trustees offered a proposal for a one-year pilot of consortium project, including:

- Jaffrey to serve as a regional center for collections, programs, management of consortium; Trustees of partner libraries would make the agreement, and leave it to Directors/staff of partner libraries to implement. (There are things to manage to make patron experience better, to be more efficient, etc.) The consortium services would not include shared grant-seeking at this time. Each library would still order their own books, pay own staff, recognizing there is potential to keep costs down by each library focusing on different collections.

- Agreement would take the form of a simple contract with municipal escape clause, compliant with RSAs.
- Library cards – Each library would maintain their own, and it would be accepted at member libraries (Jaffrey for now.). Libraries would maintain electronic resources (e.g. downloadable books) separately because they are fee-based. Accelerated inter-library loan (ILL) between members would allow books to be transported back and forth, and returned at either library.
- Enhanced ILL – faster sharing of collection among consortium members.
- Professional service sharing relating to consortium, may be fee-free after startup period.

DPL could choose to contract with Julie Perrin outside the consortium:

- Create Biblionix support for budget process.
- Share staff training as space available
- Assistance in converting website to CivicsPlus.

Metrics of consortium benefits:

- Patrons have more choices
- Save costs

Draft motion for consideration, passed by the Jaffrey Board of Trustees:

That the Jaffrey Public Library establish a library consortium with the Dublin Public Library, based on the goals and services outlined in tonight's discussion. The consortium will be agreed in a Contract for Library Services between the Jaffrey Public Library Board of Trustees and the Dublin Public Library Board of Trustees upon the following terms: the Jaffrey Library Director will oversee the project; Dublin will contribute \$5,000.00 toward development costs; the initial term will be 12 months; the agreement may be extended upon terms to be negotiated at the time of renewal. Both parties believe that innovation is necessary in order to ensure the future sustainability of small, rural public libraries and accept the inherent uncertainty regarding outcomes, renewal terms, and future direction of the consortium.

Discussion:

Can we do this before we get a Director? Immediate advantage for us is that we can give Dublin residents access to the resources of Jaffrey Public Library right now. Implementation would require a tight communication plan. Even if we agreed tonight, time is needed to prepare for roll-out. This is budget season, the busiest time of year for all Directors.

Jaffrey's next regular board meeting is Wednesday, September 20. Dublin Board will meet separately to consider motion.

Meeting adjourned at 6:43 pm.

**Next steps for Dublin Board of Trustees:**

**Meet to discuss proposal and vote on Dublin's participation.**

**Communicate results of vote to John Stone, Chair of Jaffrey Board of Trustees.**