

**From:** "Betsy Maas" <[supervisor@unionvaleny.us](mailto:supervisor@unionvaleny.us)>  
**To:** "rsmith" <[rsmith@midhudson.org](mailto:rsmith@midhudson.org)>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 7, 2018 1:40:54 PM  
**Subject:** Town Board Meeting Prep - MHLS Numbers Needed

Dear Rebekkah:

I am preparing information for the Library contract follow up discussion at our town board meeting on September 20<sup>th</sup>. Can you update the attached sheet so I can distribute it to our Board? The last one we have is from October of 2016. We need numbers for 2017 or 2018.

Thank you.

Betsy

Supervisor Betsy Maas  
(845) 724-5600 ext. 110 (office)  
(845) 223-7335 (mobile)  
Town of Union Vale

**From:** Rebekkah Smith Aldrich [<mailto:rsmith@midhudson.org>]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 07, 2018 2:59 PM  
**To:** Betsy Maas <[supervisor@unionvaleny.us](mailto:supervisor@unionvaleny.us)>  
**Subject:** Re: Town Board Meeting Prep - MHLS Numbers Needed

Hi Betsy,  
The state has not provided the 2017 data set to us yet. This is, unfortunately, not unusual. 2018 data would likely follow the same pace and not be available until last quarter of 2019.  
Rebekkah

**From:** "Betsy Maas" <[supervisor@unionvaleny.us](mailto:supervisor@unionvaleny.us)>  
**To:** "rsmith" <[rsmith@midhudson.org](mailto:rsmith@midhudson.org)>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 7, 2018 3:26:38 PM  
**Subject:** RE: Town Board Meeting Prep - MHLS Numbers Needed

Thank you Rebekkah but I am not looking for the official report, which I know is always delayed. We are looking for the card numbers that each library and MHLS has access to on their systems (MHLS' System). Could you please request that your data department run the report or ask the libraries go into their system's and supply us with the numbers? We know that they can check daily and it is important that we have those numbers as a way to tie the "bill" to something. As of right now, in the contract the dollars are tied to nothing and our residents will want to know what the amount is for.

I spoke with Robert Freeman and he said you were a big proponent of transparency. Our residents will expect us to know these numbers and we feel we have to be transparent as well.  
Thank you for your assistance with this.

Betsy  
Supervisor Betsy Maas  
(845) 724-5600 ext. 110 (office)  
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Town of Union Vale

On Sep 7, 2018, at 4:38 PM, Rebekkah Smith Aldrich <[rsmith@midhudson.org](mailto:rsmith@midhudson.org)> wrote:

Hi Betsy,

The contract is tied to free direct access to library services for residents of your town. I think that is a very clear communication of what the amount is for.

Free direct access to library services means that *any* resident of your town can walk through the doors of their neighborhood public library had have *unfettered* access to educational materials (books, magazines, newspapers, and more); online resources such as ebooks, emagazines, and downloadable audio books; movies for their family to enjoy without paying a subscription fee or movie ticket price; public access to computers; broadband internet connectivity; access to professional staff who can help them with that technology; unbiased news and research resources; early literacy programming for their children; programming for adults that span topics such as how to access social services, age in place, manage their household budget on a fixed income or socialize with their neighbors.

Many of the above services do not require a card to be presented. The cardholder numbers do not tell the whole story of what your residents receive which is why the impacted libraries are offering to not only continue the routine emessage to help existing cardholders understand all they have access to but, starting with the new contract, to go beyond the cardholder group to work towards educating more taxpayers about available services and the impact of those services on their neighbors through the proposed annual report to your community.

Just as we do not measure the amount paid for schools in our communities by the percentage of families with children currently enrolled in K-12, communities do not measure their support of libraries by the number of cardholders. They measure their investment against their commitment to an informed democracy where all have access to the information they need to live productive, healthy lives.

We are not opposed to furnishing you with the data as you have implied below, but are opposed to framing the discussion as if the contract is based on those numbers. I will speak with the impacted libraries' about supplying the data you have asked for.

Respectfully,  
Rebekkah

From: Betsy Maas <[supervisor@unionvaleny.us](mailto:supervisor@unionvaleny.us)>  
Date: September 7, 2018 at 5:53:01 PM EDT  
To: Rebekkah Smith Aldrich <[rsmith@midhudson.org](mailto:rsmith@midhudson.org)>  
Subject: Re: Town Board Meeting Prep - MHLS Numbers Needed  
Thank you, Rebekkah.

I am not implying anything other than a straightforward request for numbers we feel our residents will expect us to have.

Unfettered direct access is important but in reality, it is priced differently in different places. You have examples in your own system of towns paying wildly different amounts for the same unfettered access, so it is a valid point to discuss with our residents and for them to ask about.

Our resources, as you know, are not unlimited and must be spent judiciously so I hope you understand our need to dot the i's and cross the t's before making a judgment about this contract.

If the Directors run the numbers, I will distribute them to our Board. We thank you for any assistance you can give in support of this simple request.

Have a nice weekend.

Regards,

Betsy