



14 September 2023

The following statement was approved by the Walworth Town Board at the September 14, 2023 meeting, in response to a report by Councilwoman Amber Linson, who serves as the Liaison to the Library:

"It has come to our attention that residents are wondering what will happen to the 2024 funds the town of Walworth intends to raise on behalf of the Walworth-Seely Public Library if the Chapter 414 referendum passes on November 5, effectively allowing the library to budget separately from the town. We are aware that the concern is that the town and library will "double tax" the residents. However, we would like those concerned residents to be aware that the final 2024 budget is scheduled to be voted on November 16. Therefore, if the Chapter 414 referendum passes, the board has every intention to remove the library line from the budget, effectively removing the taxes raised by the town on behalf of the library. We will not "double tax" Walworth residents.

Additionally, we would like to express our support of the libraries efforts to become independent in this way. The library has proven itself to be an asset to the Town of Walworth residents and is well utilized by the same. However, In the past, the library's budgetary needs have been disregarded causing them to reduce staff, hours of operation, and available resources to conform to their available funds. This forced budgetary deficit was done without regard to the resident's utilization of the resources available through the library."