

Report of the Ainsworth Public Library

The library offers many services to the community besides just lending books. We offer free 24/7 wi-fi service, free library cards, programming for adults and children, public computers, DVDs, audios, over 500 free universal classes online, free e-books and audios online, and free passes to state parks and VT museums/historical sites. We have a fax and copying service and are a great place to check your email or browse the internet inside or out. We have games, snowshoes, telescopes, cameras, and many other unexpected items that you can check out for free. The library's primary purpose is to be a place that serves as an information hub that allows equal access to information. Sometimes people pop in to look something up, browse a book they're curious about, or check on local news. We currently have 1,500 active library patrons of all ages and needs. Did you know we have 11,251 items that you can check out at the library? Taxpayers contribute \$100 a year for all of these services and more. Take advantage of the opportunity to participate and enjoy all that your library offers.

This year the Selectboard decided to remove the library from the General Town Ledger and have it be an article of its own. The library has gone back and forth different years as to whether it is a part of the General Town Ledger or an article on its own based on the inclination of the Selectboard each year. The library Trustees were surprised when the town created a separate checking and savings account for the library without the Trustee's input or knowledge in 2022 and told them their budget would be a separate article at Town Meeting. The library Trustees are fiscally responsible for running the library and must be as informed as possible when making decisions in the library's best interest. The Trustees of the library wrote a second article this year for the townspeople to vote that the library be kept in the General Town Ledger so that misinformation and misunderstandings do not occur. The library is not a separate entity from the town; it is a municipal town library. Please help the library by voting YES to the article for the library to remain in the General Town Ledger.

There was an increase in the library budget this year. The addition included an increased book budget, computer services, heat, required dues, property insurance, wages, benefits, workers comp, and postage. The Trustees increased these categories because of the projected yearly increases. We hope you will support our budget by voting YES to approve it at Town Meeting. On behalf of the library, we would like to thank the voters for their backing in helping keep the library an integral part of the community. Please visit our website www.Ainsworthpubliclibrary.org or on social media under Ainsworth Public Library for pictures, library information, and upcoming events. We appreciate so much what the town's people do for the library.

Thank you,
Sarah Snow
Ainsworth Public Library Director