

Chesterfield NH Public Library

Financial Policies and Procedures

Purpose

The policies and procedural guidelines are designed to:

- Protect the assets of the Library;
- Ensure the maintenance of accurate records of the Library's financial activities;
- Provide a framework of operating standards and behavioral expectations; and,
- Ensure compliance with federal, state, and local legal and reporting requirements

Amendments to written Chesterfield Public Library policies may only be made with the prior approval of the Chesterfield Public Library Board of Trustees, herein also referred to the "Board of Trustees." Changes or amendments to these policies may be approved by the Board of Trustees at any time. A complete review of the policies may be conducted every two years by the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees Treasurer, herein referred to as the "Treasurer" and all Library Staff that assist the Treasurer in carrying out NH Financial Statutory responsibilities are expected to be familiar with and operate within the parameters of these policies.

Fraud Prevention

Fraud is defined as a willful or deliberate act with the intention of obtaining an unauthorized benefit, such as money or property, by deception or other unethical means.

All fraudulent acts or related misconduct are included under this policy and include, but are not limited to, such activities as:

- Embezzlement, theft, misappropriation, or other financial irregularities;
- Forgery or alteration of documents (checks, time sheets, contractor agreements, purchase orders, other financial documents, electronic files);
- Improprieties in the handling or reporting of financial transactions;
- Misappropriation of funds, securities, supplies, inventory, or any other asset (such as furniture, fixtures, equipment, materials), including assets of the Library, patrons, suppliers, or others with whom there is a business relationship;
- Authorizing or receiving payment for goods not received or services not performed;
- Authorizing or receiving payments for hours not worked or expenses not accrued and documented;
- Profiteering as a result of insider knowledge of Library activities.

Fraud and related misconduct will not be tolerated. Employees found to have participated in such conduct will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

Board of Trustees Members, herein referred to as “Trustees” and Library Employees are expected to use their best efforts to recognize risks and exposures inherent to their areas of responsibility and to be aware of indications of fraud and related misconduct. Any Trustee or employee who knows or suspects fraud or related misconduct shall report that to the Chair of the Board of Trustees or the Chesterfield Public Library Director, herein referred to as the “Director”.

When fraud or related misconduct is reported, an appropriate inquiry and all necessary action will be undertaken. All inquiries of alleged wrongdoing will be conducted in accordance with the Chesterfield Public Library Disciplinary Policy. During or following the inquiry, the Board of Trustees may choose to consult with legal counsel and/or take appropriate steps to minimize recurrence.

Investment Policy

It is the policy of the Chesterfield NH Public Library to invest public funds in a manner which will provide the highest return with the maximum security while meeting cash flow demands. All investments will conform to all applicable laws and regulations governing the investment of public funds.

Objective

The Primary Objectives of the Library's financial investments are, in priority order:

- Safety of Principal – Safety of principal is the foremost objective. All investments shall be undertaken in a manner that seeks first to preserve capital and second to fulfill other investment objectives.
- Liquidity – The Library's investment portfolio will remain sufficiently liquid to enable the Library to meet all operating requirements which might be reasonably anticipated.
- Return on Investments (Yield) – The Library's investments should generate the highest available return without sacrificing the first two objectives.

Funds

The Board of Trustees may establish funds for money and securities of the Library. All monies from whatever source derived will be directed into funds established by the Board of Trustees under NH Statute. The authorized funds are as follows:

- An operating account for funds paid over by the Town
- A non-lapsing coconut for funds from income generating equipment, fees, gifts, trusts, and other revenue.

All accounts will be used to fund the operation of the Library and be debited by the Board following the spending guidelines outlined in this policy and in RSA 202-A:11 and RSA 202-A:11-a.

Delegation of Authority

The Treasurer in concert with the Board of Trustees shall implement the investment program and establish investment procedures consistent with this policy. No person may engage in an investment transaction except as provided under the terms of this policy.

Deposit Requirements

The Board of Trustees shall designate its public depositories. Any eligible financial institution that has offices within the State of New Hampshire may become a public depository of the funds of the Library.

Reporting

The Treasurer shall provide the Board of Trustees with monthly reports which clearly provide the following information regarding the investment portfolio:

- types of investment and cash position
- depository institutions,
- principal balances,

Ethics and Conflicts of Interest

Those involved in the investment process shall refrain from personal business activity that could conflict with the proper execution and management of the Library investment program, or that could impair their ability to make impartial decisions.

Electronic Transfers

The following type of transactions may be conducted by electronic transfer between financial institutions in order to expedite the transfer of funds as well as maximize interest earnings:

- Direct deposit of telecom tax funds and credit card receipts
- All investment transfers for certificates of deposit and savings accounts authorized by the Treasurer
- Payroll for Library employees and fees associated with payroll processing
- Tax and benefit payments made by employees through payroll deductions such as health and dental insurance and retirement contributions.
- Utility payments, Internet and telecom service payments
- Purchasing card payments (after invoice review by the Chesterfield Public Library Board of Trustees)
- Other services with a monthly subscription cost or contract payment as approved by the Board of Trustees
- To satisfy long-term bond or debt obligations when required by a depository trust company

The Treasurer with the assistance of the Library Director will maintain appropriate documentation of the transactions so these may be entered into QuickBooks.

Personal Use of District Assets

Neither the Director nor any Trustee will use or permit the use of Library funds, equipment, telephones, materials or property for their own personal benefit or profit. Neither the Director nor a Trustee will ask or require a Library employee to perform services for the personal benefit or profit of a Trustee or the Director. The Director and all Trustees will safeguard Library property, equipment, moneys and assets against unauthorized use or removal, as well as from loss due to criminal act or breach of trust.

Segregation of Fiscal Duties and Internal Controls

No one person should control or perform all key aspects of a transaction or financial event. Segregation of duties is an important internal control activity that helps detect errors in a timely manner and deters improper activities. Internal controls instituted by the Library will assist the board in maintaining adequate fiscal oversight of the expenditure of funds.

Purchasing Policy

The Chesterfield Public Library establishes this purchasing policy in order to comply with the principles of responsible fiscal management.

Only the Director as delegated by the Chesterfield Public Library Board of Trustees may commit the Library to make purchases. Further, with the few exceptions described herein and those purchases requiring action to secure the immediate safety of employees or the public, all

purchases require advanced planning and the adherence to the processes outlined in this policy and procedures established by the Treasurer with the assistance of the Director.

Materials, equipment, supplies, and services purchased by the Library shall be of a quality and quantity required to serve the functions of the Library in a satisfactory manner.

It is the responsibility of the Treasurer with the assistance of the Director to secure the required bids or to investigate alternative suppliers to ensure the most economical purchase of required items. The process of securing quotes and/or bids is further described in this policy.

All purchases will have a budgetary appropriation. All budgetary transfers will be reported to the Board of Trustees and their approval documented.

Purchasing Procedure

The Treasurer with the assistance of the Director shall be responsible for establishing and updating procedures for the proper and cost-effective documentation of purchases. The treasurer shall submit regular reports to the Board on the financial status of the library in relation to its current budget. When updates occur, the Treasurer and/or Director shall bring them to the Board of Trustees for review and consideration.

The Director may purchase goods or services and which are included in the library's annual budget or in an approved capital plan. Documentation is to include:

- Original itemized purchase receipt including an itemized description of the purchase, the quantity ordered and the vendor.
- When applicable, a copy of the packing list attached, initialed, and dated by the person checking in the shipment.
- Hard-copy print-out of items ordered on-line.

The Director may forward approved invoices to a bookkeeper if there is one on staff for payment.

Requirements for Obtaining Quotes and Bids

With the understanding that purchases for library materials are often available through statewide or national discount programs for libraries, the Board of Trustees establishes the following policy related to bids:

Library Materials:

Books, magazines, A/V, and other such materials intended for patron use are generally purchased from vendors offering volume discounts or vendors offering a State contract discount program. Materials available only from the publisher are generally purchased with little or no discount.

Capital and One-Time Purchases:

The following schedule is related to capital or one-time purchases of non-library materials (i.e., equipment, furniture, etc.) where individual items are at the stated prices

and for which there are sufficient budget appropriations. All involved in the purchase process shall be aware of prevailing state contracts or other previously arranged discount programs that the library is eligible to participate in.

The following is a list of purchase amounts and requirements for items not in the town approved budget

- Purchases by the Director up to \$1500 will be reviewed by the Board.
- Purchases from \$1500 to \$10,000 require prior Board approval.
- Purchases from \$10,000 to \$20,000: an effort will be made to obtain multiple written quotes, if applicable.
- Purchases over \$20,000 require a formal bid process approved by the Board of Trustees, in accordance with NH Statutes

Items not subject to bid:

Professional services such as an auditor or attorney which involve specialized expertise, use of professional judgment, and/or a high degree of creativity.

Emergencies arising from an accident or other unforeseen occurrence, a situation in which public buildings, property, or residents are at risk, or immediate action is required that cannot await competitive bidding.

Revenues

Monies received as revenue by the Library for reimbursements for lost or damaged materials, copier/fax, computer printouts, etc. may be used to defray expenses as authorized by the Board In compliance with RSA 202-A:11,III.

All grants, gifts and donations to the Library shall be subject to approval and acceptance by the Trustee Board in compliance with applicable RSA guidelines. Those gifts and donations covered under the Collection Development Policy must also comply with that policy

The Library shall comply with donor-restrictions on monetary gifts, trusts and donations that have been approved and accepted by the Board.

Disbursements

Review of invoices

All invoices for supplies and library materials are reviewed by the Library Director and treasurer. The invoices are compared with the order's documentation and packing slips to verify the material was ordered by the Library, received in good condition, and the charges are correct.

The library Director or the bookkeeper when one is on staff prepares checks for payment and records these transactions in the Library's accounting program.

Check signatories

Check signing ability is vested with the Library Board. The Library Board may designate check signing ability as necessary to its individual members. Generally, check signers will include two of the following: Board President, Board Treasurer, or Board Secretary.

Due to the separation of duties, the ability to sign for payments may not be given to the Library Director.

All payments are accompanied by an invoice or other documentation indicating the purpose of the payment and filed for audit. The two signing Board Members verify that the charged amount equals the check amount and initials the documentation indicating it was reviewed.

A staff member or Board Member is not authorized to sign checks in which s/he would be the recipient of the funds expended.

Refunds to Patrons

When a patron erroneously makes payment (including credit card payments) to the Library for lost materials, staff members are authorized to issue a refund in amounts less than \$20 in cash. If the payment was originally made by credit card, then a refund is submitted on the credit card by the Library Director.

When a refund is required that exceeds \$50, a check is issued and mailed to the patron.

Charges for lost materials that are returned in the Library's outside item returns, or otherwise returned with the patron not present, will have the value credited to the patron account

Bank Statements and Reconciliation Reports

The Library Director compares bank statements monthly with interest earned, deposit records, and canceled checks. A reconciliation report in the accounting program is prepared by the treasurer.. The statement and reports are reviewed and approved by the Library Director (or designee).

The Board reviews and approves a monthly log of all account balances, a record of checks issued during the previous month, and a monthly update of income/expenditures as compared to the Library's annual budget.

Disposal of Property

Withdrawn materials, materials donated but not added to the collection and small items of library equipment valued at fifty dollars (\$50) or less may be sold. Materials deemed by the Library Director to be unfit for sale may be recycled, discarded, or otherwise disposed of.

If another library or organization expresses interest in a piece of equipment or other items no longer used by the Library, the Library Director may negotiate the sale or trade of the items for reasonable compensation.

Construction or Other Major Projects

Major projects may have a budget and bank account separate from the Library's general budget and bank account. Any separate budgets or bank accounts are subject to the same policies and procedures as the Library's general accounts.

Upon completion of the project, these accounts may be audited separately from the Library's annual audit as required.

Staff Reimbursement for Purchases

Staff members may occasionally need to purchase materials for the Library with their personal funds. Expenses must be approved by the Director before purchasing. Staff may submit itemized receipts for these purchases to the Director and pending Director and Board Approval a reimbursement check will be issued within 30 days.

Staff Reimbursement for Travel Expense

Employees will be reimbursed for travel expenses incurred in the performance of their work. Any cost incurred should be the most economical with the Library's best interest. Any employee of the Library incurring expenses for the Library related business shall be reimbursed as follows:

- Official travel in privately owned vehicles shall be reimbursed in accordance with rates set forth in the New Hampshire travel regulations.
- Air travel shall not be first class unless other rates are unavailable.
- Lodging shall be reimbursable at the actual expense. Receipts must be provided .

- Parking, tolls, and public transport shall be reimbursable at the actual expense. Receipts must be provided for all parking, tolls and public transport.
- Conference and registration fees shall be approved in advance by the Director, and may be prepaid when necessary and appropriate.
- Use of rental vehicles is allowed when more feasible than other types of available transportation.
- The Library will reimburse an employee for meals at required training sessions as per IRS allowable rates. All expenses should be reported on the Travel Expense Reimbursement Form and submitted for Director and Board approval.
- Other necessary expenses which were unforeseeable prior to travel may be approved by the Board upon presentation of documentation of the need for such expense.

Expenses not in compliance with the travel expense policy will not be reimbursed or paid by the Board, such as costs incurred by family members or staff attendance at events not approved by the Director or the Board.

Review of Director's Expenses

The Chesterfield Public Library Board of Trustees is responsible for reviewing the expenses of the Library Director.

Expenses for the Director's travel on library business will be approved by the Board as a part of the regular budgeted annual expenses of the Library.

The Library-issued credit card for the Director is intended to be used in the conduct of the Library's business. The charges made upon the Director's Library-issued credit card are reviewed each month by the Treasurer.

Library-Issued Credit Card Procedures

Credit cards are issued to the Library Director to make purchases for Library events, to pay for h travel expenditures, or to order supplies and equipment for the Library. The expenditure must be within the guidelines of the particular activity of the approved budget. The card is not to be used for any personal expenses. Prior to initial receipt of any card, each individual must agree to and sign the Credit Card Use Procedures.

The amount of available credit on each card is determined by the Library Director and Chesterfield Public Library Board of Trustees. Purchases may not exceed the assigned credit limit. There are no exceptions.

Balances on credit cards are paid in full by the Library each month. Payments on the monthly statement must be made in a timely fashion so that finance charges are not incurred. Timely payment requires staff incurring the charges properly complete transactional paperwork relation to the Library's accounting functions.

The Library Director will maintain all receipts for expenditures. Proper documentation will include an original itemized paid receipt indicating the amount paid, the vendor, and the itemized description of the purchase. Unacceptable documentation includes non-itemized cash register receipts or handwritten requests for reimbursement without receipts or other verification.

An individual statement is prepared for each credit card. The statement is sent to the staff member holding the card. The staff member checks all expenditures listed on the statement against his/her receipts. If the charges listed and receipts match, the statement is initialed and dated. The statement and receipts should then be sent to the Library Director for payment. Receipts should note which particular budget line item each item applies to.

Charges on Library-issued credit cards are reviewed each month by the Director and the Board Treasurer. The Director reviews the master list of credit card charges after the individual statements are reviewed/approved by the cardholder.

Charges on the Director's Library-issued credit card are reviewed by the Board Treasurer each month.

A report will be generated each month in the Library's accounting software and all purchases will be reconciled.

Agreement for Use of Library-issued Credit Card

This card is issued to you on a temporary basis, and remains the sole property of the bank from which it was issued. The right to use this card may be revoked at any time without warning by the issuing bank authority or by the Henry County Public Library.

By accepting this card it is understood that you are personally responsible for any unauthorized or inappropriate use of the card.

I have read and understand and accept my personal responsibilities and liabilities involving the use of the bank credit card issued to me. I further understand that any inappropriate use of this card may result in disciplinary action and possible garnishment of my wages.

Card Issued: _____

Card #: _____

Card Holder Signature:

Date:

Signature of Witness:

Date:
