

**From:** David Seleb [<mailto:d.seleb@oppl.org>]

**Subject:** Oak Park Public Library

Dear David and Members of the Taxing Body Efficiency Task Force:

The Oak Park Public Library Board of Trustees spent some time during its June 26 regular meeting to discuss the work of your committee. Regarding some of the potential efficiency opportunities you are considering, including jurisdictional consolidation, the board asked me to contact you with some information that may be helpful to you.

The Oak Park Public Library is a municipal library and specifically a village library. According to the laws of the State of Illinois, the independently elected library board of trustees has the authority to adopt a budget and a levy resolution annually and to deliver that budget and resolution to the village authority. That village authority is then obligated -- has the "ministerial duty" as some lawyers would say -- to incorporate those budget requirements and that levy resolution into its annual levy ordinance and into its budget and appropriations ordinance. The Oak Park Public Library is not a library district, which means it does not have taxing authority independent of the authority of the Village of Oak Park.

The elected library board of trustees does have specific rights and responsibilities under state law, including the aforementioned regarding the budget and including the exclusive control of the expenditure of all monies collected for the library, to purchase or lease real or personal property, to hire and evaluate the performance of the library's director, the development and adoption of library policies, the development and adoption of a strategic plan, and the power to determine how library services will be extended to people both inside and outside of the village.

These laws as I have summarized them may be found at 75 Illinois Compiled Statutes (ILCS) 5.

I would be happy to discuss this information with you or with any members of the Task Force, at your convenience, or to answer any questions you may have.

Yours truly,

**David J. Seleb**, Executive Director, Oak Park Public Library  
Main Library | 834 Lake Street | Oak Park, IL 60301  
[d.seleb@oppl.org](mailto:d.seleb@oppl.org) | p 708.697.6911 | f 708.697.6917  
[oppl.org](http://oppl.org) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Apps](#) | [News](#)

Dear David,

Thank you very much for providing the response below on behalf of the Oak Park Public Library Board of Trustees. I am aware of the citations that you reference, and in fact highlighted the substance of their effect in an earlier meeting of the Task Force as part of a discussion in which we identified specifically which bodies had responsibilities for which budgets and over which portions of the overall property tax bill. It may also be worth noting for some of the newer members of the Library Board that, while serving as Village President, I stopped any number of Village Trustees in their efforts to question the Oak Park Public Library's budget resolution by letting those Village Trustees know that the Library budget, its resulting services, and the associated tax impact and the financial consequences for the community are solely and entirely the province and the responsibility of the Library Board (and, as you rightly point out, under the structure that we have today, the Library Board's adopted budget is and must be simply incorporated without question into the Village's overall levy).

As mentioned in my April letter sent on behalf of the Taxing Body Efficiency Task Force (that was sent to all of the governing bodies), the Task Force was established to help identify ways in which our community might be able to proactively respond to the needs of so many in our community who are experiencing significant economic challenges as a result of the dramatic increase in the property tax burden that Oak Park has experienced over the near to mid-term period.

In that same letter, on behalf of the Task Force, I invited each of the governing bodies to provide any input to the Task Force that they believed might be helpful in addressing and responding to the rising property tax burden and the associated economic challenges that members of our community are experiencing. To date, we have received responses from some of the governing bodies, which we welcome and appreciate. If the Oak Park Public Library Board of Trustees would wish to provide any input, beyond the legal and statutory citations referenced below, we would welcome that as well.

As I mentioned in my original April letter to all of the jurisdictions, I can be reached directly on my cell phone at 312-498-6001. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me with any questions.

Thank you again for all of your continuing service to the people of our community.

Kindest regards,

David

David Pope