

Rosendale became a Special District in '87 ... West Hurley in '89 Woodstock in '89
..... Ulster in '89 Saugerties in '92 Esopus Port Ewen in '94
..... **Stone Ridge in 2000!**

Yes! It's time. The Stone Ridge Library must become a Special District because we've run out of ways to fund the library and currently are running on a deficit. Our operating budget is eroding our capital expenditures.

1. *Why did all those other libraries become Special District years ago?*

They realized the only long term solution to stable funding and survival was through Special District funding. Stone Ridge has held on (or off) by aggressive fund raising that has frankly, bottomed out. In order to ensure an adequate collection, staff, facilities, and convenient hours, the Board of Trustees, the Mid-Hudson library system and many of our members agree, we must become a Special District.

2. *How much will it cost?*

The annual cost to a Marbletown property owner would be approximately \$35 per \$100,000 of full market value. If you are currently a member of the library, that amount is likely to be similar to the cost of your current membership.

3. *But will we still have a library fair?*

Absolutely! And Holiday Author, Author. The word fun will go back into fundraising, and with Special District we can ensure our library will be around for years to come.

4. *What about Town of Rochester residents?*

When we contract with the Town of Rochester, the Town will be asked for parity in funding for equal services.

5. *But I don't use the library all that often.*

Frequent (3,528 active patrons) and infrequent borrowers must unite to ensure that the library remains a vital part of our community. For example, we support our fire house with our tax bills and with donations. (Hopefully, we rarely use it.) However, the firehouse it is an important community resource that we cannot do without. We feel the same way about our library.

6. *What will happen if Special District status is not attained?*

The library will continue to exist, at least in the short term. But there can be **NO increases in services and reductions will have to be made in the near future.**

7. *How can I support Special District Status?*

Specifically, sign the petition to the Town Board of Marbletown to support the Special District process which involves state approval and a subsequent vote. Petitions are available at the library and in businesses around town. The petition will be presented to the Town Board on September 8th, so don't delay!

FAQ Concerning Special Districting

What is a Special District Library?

A Special District Library is established by a special act of the state legislature and a vote by the district voters. The annual budget is approved by district voters at a special election and can never increase without such a vote. The property owners of the District pay, according to their tax rate, a fee listed separately on their tax bills, much like that for a fire or water district.

The Board of Trustees are also voted on at that election.

The special district library employees are subject to Civil Service Laws.

What are the benefits of a Special District Library?

In order to ensure a stable source of funding in a time of increasing costs and diminishing resources, the SRL Board of Trustees is recommending to the community that we establish a Special Library District in the Town of Marbletown.

With Special District funding the library could provide:

- * continued purchase of books and periodicals to update our collection
- * convenient hours of operation
- * enriching children's services
- * an impressive selection of audio and visual resources as well as subscriptions to periodicals such as the New York Times
- * updated CD ROM reference
- * professionally trained staff including state preferred masters (MLS) prepared Director

Long hours of staff time spent on fund raising efforts could better be spent on directly serving our community's library needs such as :

- * reference services
- * expansion of local history and genealogy resources
- * book- mobile for home bound residents
- * story hours for children
- * computer workshops
- * informative programs in collaboration with other local groups such as the business community and school groups

Who would be effected?

The entire community would benefit from a securely funded library. Although fundraising efforts would continue, individuals and local business would be unburdened with frequent requests of support in order to meet operating expenses.

The Stone Ridge Library Special District would include the Town of Marbletown. The estimated first year would mean approximately \$35 per \$100,000 home's assessed market value. The Town of Rochester will be requested to contribute in parity per capita to Marbletown's funding.

Many of our neighboring communities have chosen this system for funding their libraries and contribute similar amounts for their services, e.g. Rosendale, West Hurley, Saugerties, Woodstock, and the Towns of Ulster and Esopus.

Please ensure the survival of our library with your support!