

Request 1989-90

Dept. 257 ETNA LIBRARY

This section of the budget covers the cost of operation of the Etna Library and shows a recommended increase of \$410 or 5.7% over 1988-89 budget. The Trustees request as submitted to me requested an increase of \$3,520 or 49%.

The Town Manager's request for part time personal services covers the part time librarian and custodian positions at their present hours. Librarian - 8 hours per week and Custodian at 100 hours per year.

The Trustees request included a significant increase in Librarian hours and the addition of a new part time clerical position. Their justification for these requests is as follows:

"The Town of Hanover Master Plan records that the Etna Library is underused. The Library Board of Trustees proposes that library hours be increased over a two year period; currently, the Etna Library hires a librarian for eight hours per week. We project a 12 hour week for 1989-90 and a 16 hour week for 1990-91. In addition, a clerk hired at a lower rate of pay would assist with nonprofessional duties and also increase hours the library can be open to the public. Our request is for a two hour per week clerk for 1989-90 and increasing to four hours weekly for 1990-91. By the 1990-91 fiscal year, we envision that the Etna Library would be open 20 hours per week to better serve the rural Hanover community."

I have great trouble recommending such a dramatic increase merely based on a Master Plan comment that the building is underutilized. It would seem to me that some need that is not presently being met in the town should be documented before proceeding with such an expansion of service.

The Trustees requested a 50% increase in funds for Books and Subscriptions because of "rising costs." I believe a 12.5% increase more than covers increased costs over the past year.