

**TOWN OF NEW LEBANON
RESOLUTION #XX, 2025
RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF ALL COLUMBIA COUNTY LIBRARIES FOR CONTINUED
FEDERAL AND STATE LIBRARY FUNDING
APRIL 1, 2025**

At the Regular Monthly Meeting of the New Lebanon Town Board, held at the New Lebanon Town Hall, 14755 NYS Route 22, New Lebanon, New York, duly called and held on the 1st day of April 2025, the following Resolution was proposed and seconded:

Resolution by _____

Seconded by _____

Supporting All Columbia County Libraries for Continued Federal & State Funding

WHEREAS, the Columbia County Libraries Association, which includes: the Chatham Public Library, Claverack Free Library, Germantown Library, Roeliff Jansen Community Library, Hudson Area Library, Kinderhook Memorial Library, Livingston Free Library, New Lebanon Library, North Chatham Free Library, Philmont Public Library, and Valatie Free Library, along with the Canaan Public Library provide vital educational, cultural, and community services to the residents of the Towns of Columbia County; and

WHEREAS, our Libraries play a crucial role in providing equitable access to information, technology, literacy programs, and lifelong learning opportunities for individuals of all ages, backgrounds, and economic statuses; and

WHEREAS, our Libraries, like many public libraries across New York State, relies on funding from multiple sources, including state and federal grants, to sustain essential programs and services; and

WHEREAS, the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) plays a critical role in supporting public libraries through its Grants to States program, which provides necessary funding to state library agencies, including the New York State Division of Library Development; and

WHEREAS, the President of the United States has issued an executive order calling for the elimination of the IMLS “to the maximum extent consistent with applicable law,” which threatens the stability of library funding across the nation, including in New York State; and

WHEREAS, the loss or significant reduction of IMLS funding could have a ripple effect, disrupting critical services, delaying state aid for libraries, and severely impacting the Mid-Hudson Library System (MHLS), which supports our Libraries; and

WHEREAS, the Museum and Library Services Act of 2018 mandates, under Section 9133 and Section 9141, that federal funding be provided to state libraries, making it imperative that Congress defend and uphold these provisions to ensure continued library funding; and

WHEREAS, the New Lebanon Town Board recognizes the indispensable role of our Libraries in fostering literacy, providing access to technology, supporting workforce development, and strengthening community engagement;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, the New Lebanon Town Board expresses its strong support for all of our county Libraries and the essential services they provide to our residents, and urges the U.S. Congress, including Senators Charles Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand and Representative Josh Riley, to take immediate action to protect the funding guarantees under Section 9141 of the Museum and Library Services Act; and be it further

RESOLVED, the New Lebanon Town Board calls upon New York State Senator Michelle Hinchey and Assembly member Didi Barrett to prioritize state-level funding for the Division of Library Development to mitigate potential federal funding losses and be it further

RESOLVED, the New Lebanon Town Board encourages New Lebanon residents and neighboring communities to advocate for library funding by contacting their federal and state representatives; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to Governor Kathy Hochul, the NYS Congressional Delegation, the NYS Senate and the NYS Assembly.

Upon the question of the foregoing Resolution, the following Town Board Members voted “Aye” or “Nay” for said Resolution:

Roll Call Vote:

Councilmember Steve Powers	_____
VACANT	
Supervisor Tistrya Houghtling	_____
Councilmember Joanne Amlaw	_____
Councilmember Craig Skerkis	_____

The Resolution, having been approved by a majority vote of the Town Board, was declared duly adopted by the Supervisor of the Town of New Lebanon.

Dated: April 1, 2025

Marcie Robertson
New Lebanon Town Clerk