

TO: Town of Mendon, Select Board

FROM: The Board of Trustees of the Taft Public Library

DATE: March 23, 2020

RE: Payment of Library Staff Wages During COVID-19 Crisis

The Board of Trustees of the Taft Public Library, acting on the recommendation of the Massachusetts Library Association and the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, urges the Mendon Board of Selectmen to continue to pay all members of the Taft Public Library staff their regular wages for the duration of the library's closure as a result of the COVID-19 health emergency.

The Board further requests that the library staff be compensated for the previous week's hours and wages lost following the closure of the library and other town buildings effective the afternoon of Monday, March 16th, 2020.

While the work of library staff, under normal circumstances, heavily involves interactions with the public, the processing of materials for circulation, and other on-site projects and tasks as assigned, the Library Director will make every effort during the closure to assign staff work remotely in support of the library's online presence, collection development, future library programming, and professional development. Staff will remain in contact with the Library Director and make regular report of their progress.

The Board of Trustees of the Taft Public Library acknowledges that, while the nature of this request for compensation is unusual, it be done in response to a wholly unprecedented situation which will place an undue hardship on employees who are able and willing to work their regular hours but cannot due to the Town's mandated closure of the building.

Respectfully submitted,

The Board of Trustees of the Taft Public Library

Amy Fahey, Chair

Wayne Phipps, Vice Chair

Ellen Agro, Secretary

Leigh Martin

Kelley Aubut

Shana Miller