

To the Tompkins County Public Library Board of Trustees and Interim Director:

In October of 2024, Finger Lakes Library System (FLLS) reached out to Tompkins County Public Library (TCPL) to request work on several items impacting TCPL's status as Central Library. A copy of that letter is attached as "A."

While there has been some progress on these items, some have not been resolved, and new concerns have emerged.

Below is a recital of the past concerns, their current status, and the new concerns.

FLLS believes each of these items can still be resolved. To do that in the most efficient and positive manner, we request that the TCPL President, Treasurer, Director and attorney meet with the FLLS President, Treasurer, Executive Director and attorney on **Date, Date, or Date**. If none of the proposed times work, please suggest three alternatives.

Past Concerns

First Concern: Budget Preparation

As you know, at the most recent round of budget presentations to the Tompkins County Legislature, TCPL was unable to effectively present materials and address questions.

Status: we trust there is in a plan in place for a more effective presentation, but would like to stay in touch on that.

Second Concern: Budget Re-allocation

As you know, after the 2024 budget presentations, the Tompkins County Legislature announced a further \$20,000.00 cut to the TCPL funds, re-routing that amount directly to the five rural libraries in the County.

Status: we would like to meet to discuss your plan to seek restoration of these funds.

Third Concern: Improper disposal of System Property

There has still been no resolution regarding the inappropriate disposal of Central Library materials with a combined value of over \$367,000.00.

Status: We would like to discuss improved clarity of the weeding process, and communications regarding actions that impact System property. Further, we would like to discuss if TCPL disagrees with FLLS's perspective on this concern, and if so, where the disagreement lies. We would like to move on from this concern.

Fourth concern: Operational competencies

We appreciate that TCPL has had a high degree of turnover that is putting a strain on its ability to perform certain activities. To the degree they impact FLLS, we would like to discuss the following:

Action	Impact	Status
Cataloging library materials, including Central Library Services Aid (CLSA).	There is a backlog which affects all member libraries.	FLLS can provide additional assistance by transferring some of these functions to FLLS.
Selecting and Ordering materials	This affects all patrons and member libraries.	FLLS can assist.
Budget and utilization of CLSA funds.	This affects all patrons and member libraries.	FLLS and TCPL have been meeting about this matter and will continue to do so.

New Concerns

In addition to the above, the following new concerns have emerged:

Threat of Legal Action Against FLLS

It is our understanding that the former TCPL Director threatened legal action against FLLS, Tompkins County, and TCPL, and this led to a negotiated settlement to secure a waiver and release of her claims.

To date, despite numerous requests, there does not appear to be any resolution authorizing the settlement and release; this calls into question whether such an agreement is enforceable. This must be discussed.

Missing CLSA Money

It is our understanding that of the \$513,463 allocated in CLSA funding for the 2022, 2023 and 2024 fiscal years, only \$175,000 has been spent, and \$337,764 remains both unused and unidentified in the TCPL financial reports.

FLLS has worked with TCPL leadership to identify purchases that fit the funding, which is how the \$175k was reached. However, the underutilization remains a serious concern for both FLLS and the New York State Library Division of Library Development.

Please know that on June 18th, the Board passed a resolution that until the 2022 and 2023 moneys are accounted for, FLLS cannot distribute any further CLSA funds to TCPL.

Request to Share Audit

Because \$337,764 of CLSA remains both unused and unidentified in the TCPL financial reports, FLLS has requested the County's recent audit of TCPL as soon as it is completed.

Please know that on June 18th, the Board passed a resolution that unless an audit showing proper custody and management of CLSA funds is provided to FLLS as soon as it is completed, FLLS, as fiduciary of CLSA funding, will demand the full amount be returned no later than December 31, 2025.

Meeting

To address these items, we propose a meeting on **DATE/TIME or DATE/TIME, or DATE/TIME**, at a location of TCPL's choice, with both FLLS' and TCPL's President, Treasurer, Director, and legal counsel. The goal of the meeting is to have clarity on the needs of both TCPL and FLLS, and to resolve the above issues.

Please let us know if any of these dates/times can work for TCPL, and if so, where you would like to meet (we can offer FLLS, but can also meet you at a location selected by TCPL).

Sincerely,

Priscilla Berggren-Thomas
President, FLLS Board of Trustees