

Myrnam Library Service Point.

Myrnam Library is a service point operated by the Northern Lights Library System. NLLS directly manages the staff and is responsible for all public library services. This service contradicts the principle of local governance and autonomy. NLLS is not designed to manage library service points and struggles to provide appropriate services to the community in Myrnam.

Northern Lights is funded through provincial operating grants and levies to library boards and municipalities. This funding is used for system-wide services and resources. When funding from the system is diverted to local services, it syphons resources from others in the system. Where NLLS is the board, the library becomes ineligible for some provincial operating grants.

Were libraries in NLLS to forego local library boards in favour of the system as the board, local libraries would lose more than \$351,000 in provincial operating grants. Myrnam currently turns down \$9,000 in provincial funding for lack of a local library board.

To fund library services in Myrnam, the library system uses:

- The provincial rural services grant from the County of Two Hills, (~\$6,250).
- The Provincial rural services grant for the Village of Myrnam, (~1,900).
- Funds contributed by the Village over the NLLS levy, (~\$4,600).

Total operating budget for Myrnam in 2023, ~\$12,750.

Myrnam's NLLS membership levy (~\$3,600) and the provincial operating grant for system services (~\$1,610) for Myrnam's population are not technically used to fund the service point. However, the system essentially expends these funds in services in kind, including human resources management, grant applications, program support, reporting, budgeting, policy development, and the like.

The total **potential** operating budget for Myrnam with a library board is ~\$21,750.

Options

- 1) Close the library service point in Myrnam. This would:
 - a. Remove the liability and responsibility for services from NLLS in Myrnam
 - b. Redirect rural services grant funding to the Two Hills Library board (\$8,304)
 - c. Reduce the burden on NLLS staff and resolve the inequity in system services.

Risks:

- The Village may opt to drop membership in NLLS (loss of ~\$5,000 in levies and grants).
- Potential damage to the relationship between the Village and NLLS

- 2) Charge the Village of Myrnam a fee to continue running the service point. Consider:

- a. The Village currently pays an average of ~\$5,800/year (on a cost recovery basis) in addition to their levy to cover expenses that arise. (They budgeted \$4,600 in 2023 beyond the NLLS levy).
- b. It is difficult to estimate the cost of services in kind (HR, payroll, reporting)
- c. Charging the Village what they are turning down in provincial operating funds may be a good starting place (\$9,000). The total membership cost for the Village would then be ~\$12,600.

Risks:

- We must be prepared to continue to provide the service if Myrnam is given this option and they choose to take it.
- Since NLLS is not structured to run local service points appropriately, more funding increases the liability for NLLS and the staff time invested in delivering local services.