STATE OF INDIANA
DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE
Room 1058, IGCN – 100 North Senate
Indianapolis, IN 46204

IN THE MATTER OF THE REQUEST	)	
OF GREENWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY,	)	
JOHNSON COUNTY, FOR AN EXCESS	)	A23-034
LEVY DUE TO THREE-YEAR	)	
GROWTH	)	

The Department of Local Government Finance ("Department") has reviewed an appeal by Greenwood Public Library's ("Library") for an excess levy in the amount of $120,000 to its civil maximum levy due to three-year growth. Indiana Code 6-1.1-18.5-13 allows the Department to grant permission to a civil taxing unit to increase its maximum levy if the Department finds that the quotient determined under Step Six of the following formula is equal to or greater than one and two-hundredths (1.02):

Step 1: Determine the three calendar years that most immediately precede the ensuing calendar year:
2023, 2022, and 2021

Step 2: Compute separately, for each of the calendar years determined in Step 1, the quotient (rounded to the nearest ten-thousandth (0.0001)) of the sum of the civil taxing unit's total assessed value of all taxable property divided by the sum determined under this Step for the calendar year immediately preceding the particular calendar year.:
Library assessed values for 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022, respectively:

2020:	*1,227,897,001*
2021:	*1,304,976,439*
2022:	*1,447,096,614*
2023:	*1,715,449,065*

Step 2 quotients:

2021/2020:	*1.0628*
2022/2021:	*1.1089*
2023/2022:	*1.1854*

Step 3: Sum the results of Step 2 and divide by three:
1.1190 ([1.0628+1.1089+1.1854]/3)

Step 4: Compute separately, for each of the calendar years determined in Step 1, the quotient (rounded to the nearest ten-thousandth (0.0001)) of the sum of the total assessed value of all taxable property in all counties divided by the sum determined under this Step for the calendar year immediately preceding the particular calendar year.
Statewide average quotients for 2020, 2021, and 2022, respectively:
1.0392; 1.0541; 1.1481

Step 5: Add the Step 4 results and divide by three:
1.0804 ([1.0392; 1.0541; 1.1481]/3)

Step 6: Divide the Step 3 results by the Step 5 results:
1.0357 (1.1190/1.0804)

The maximum amount that the Department may award is the amount by which Step 3 exceeds the maximum levy growth quotient ("MLGQ") as calculated according to IC 6-1.1-18.5-2 (this amount is 1.04 or 4% for 2024; since 1.0357 is greater than 1.020, the Library is eligible for a three-year growth appeal):
0.0790 (7.90%) (1.1190-1.0400)

The Library's 2023 maximum civil levy is $1,215,809. This is the most recent civil maximum levy that the Department can use as the basis for an adjustment. Multiplying this figure by the 7.90% growth factor calculated above results in a figure of $96,098, which is the maximum for which the Library could qualify under the statutory formula. Under IC 6-1.1-18.5-12(a), the Library must also show that it is unable to perform its government functions without this increase.

The Library states in its appeal that the excess levy is needed for employee retention, especially since the Library has renovated its current facilities and wants to ensure that "the Library does not fall behind on the operations of the new space.

The Department made a follow-up inquiry with the Library regarding the retention rate of its employees and the expected wage increases in 2024. The Library responded that in 2022 six employees left, 4 retiring and 2 moving away. The Library then said that wages will go up by 4% in keeping with the maximum levy growth quotient for 2024, and also that the Library has more budgeted than what is needed for 2024 due the Library's decision not to hire another full-time employee.

The Form 4B for pay-2024 indicates that the Library's General Fund operating balance will be reduced from $508,098 to $95,853. However, the Department must also consider the Library's statement that its budget represents more than it needs, specifically with regard to wages. The Library has not made any representations that an excess levy is needed for other expenses.

Finally, the Library stated on its Budget Form 3 that it seeks an excess levy appeal of $120,000 for its General Fund.

After a review of the petition, the Department, following IC 6-1.1-18.5-12 and 13, and in consideration of all evidence provided, finds as follows:
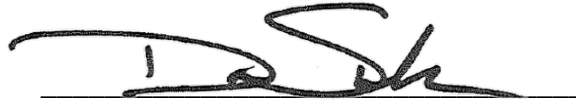
DENIED:

The Library's excess levy appeal is denied because the Library has not shown a need that warrants an excess levy. The Library's statements that wages will increase in line with the

maximum levy growth quotient, as well as the decision not to hire a full-time employee, indicates that the Library is still able to perform its government functions without the excess levy.

Therefore, the Department denies the Library's excess levy appeal. This Order of the Department is subject to judicial review under Ind. Code § 6-1.1-18.5-15.

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WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL of this Department on this __29__ day of
__November__, 2023.

Daniel Shackle, Commissioner