

NOVEMBER 15, 2024

TO: Mayor T. Walker
Tay Township Council Members

RE: TALPINE'S RESPONSE TO THE OCTOBER 23, 2024 letter from the TTLB which was placed on the Township meeting agenda on November 13, 2024

Dear Mayor Walker and Members of Council:

Upon reading the letter from the TTLB, we were surprised by the accusation that our delegation was inconsistent or inaccurate. Since you have agreed to send that letter to your Library Ad Hoc committee, we request that you also provide them with this letter.

It seems that perhaps our delegation comments were misunderstood, and for that reason we are providing clarification.

- 1. LIBRARY MASTER PLAN 2016. The TTPLB says it agrees with the "importance " of the 2016 Master Plan and that it " worked through all of the recommendations within the document." Our delegation pointed out that the original TTLB report to council suggesting closure of the three library branches made NO REFERENCE to the 2016 Master Plan. In our delegation we referred to the taxpayers, citizens, survey respondents' extremely positive support of keeping open the three branches in local towns. The citizens' extensive support was never referred to in the TTPLB report to Council. We believe that the ad hoc committee should be keenly aware of and recognize citizens' needs, family and community needs and taxpayers' requests to keep all local branches open.**
- 2. The TTPLB also admits that "it deferred most of the recommendations which deal with proposed structural changes in library facilities each budget year since 2016." THIS WE KNOW! NONE OF THE RECOMMENDED CHANGES in the 2016 Master Plan were carried out for EIGHT YEARS, and obviously those structural changes would have been enormously less expensive than they are now.**

We are pleased that finally, a new, accessible door has been installed in the Waubaushene branch. Thank you.

3. The TTLB in paragraph two seems not to understand the reference in our delegation to the Georgian Bay Public Library Website. To clarify our delegation, we did not refer to the GBPL website to insist on an improvement to the TTPLB website. The reason we mentioned GBPL was because on its website it makes very clear its vision and philosophy to assist the community and its citizens, provide a community hub, provide amazing programs for children, seniors and others. They also provide useful details on their web site for their programs and for the grant funding they continuously applied for and received. We hoped that the Library Ad Hoc Committee would look into this, and recommend to Council numerous applications for funding to keep our branches open, and renovated. Our MPP should be requested to assist, we believe.

TTPLB paragraph 4: QUIET SPACES FOR CHILDREN. The TTPLB says there are no quiet spaces for children in our branches to do homework. THIS SHOULD BE A PRIORITY IN LIBRARY PROGRAMMING TO ASSIST LOCAL CHILDREN in our community to attend the library. Libraries, as generally understood, are themselves quieter, safer spaces than many other locations and therefore deserve to be preserved as oases of respite. IF a 5 Million dollar library was built in Port McNicoll only, it would be of NO USE to Tay kids and families who do not live in that town.

TTPLB paragraph 5. It is true that our Waub local cultural dinners were discontinued in 2017 and replaced with Tastes of the World recipe and seasonings program. Our reference to programming in our delegation was intended to influence Council and its AD HOC COMMITTEE to ask local branches to create interesting, senior, child, cultural, environmental programs that our citizens want and NEED, and that our citizens help create and enjoy. We need library leaders with VISION. This is why we asked the ad hoc committee and Council to hold public meetings and create an all-service inclusive survey.

TTLB paragraph 6. heating and Cooling Centres. WAUBAUSHENE HAS NO other public access community space except the community library building. We believe that Council could persuade the municipal government, our county and our MPP to provide more funding to ensure that ALL of the library branches could be used as heating / cooling centres.

THE TTLB STATED:THE TTLB BELIEVES THE PROPOSED RECOMMENDATION TO MOVE TO ONE LIBRARY FACILITY IS FINANCIALLY PRUDENT. How could it be possible that a non-accessible by transit 5 million dollar new building in Port McNicoll would be prudent? WE STRONGLY DISAGREE AND IT IS OBVIOUS TO US AND OUR TAY COMMUNITY THAT OUR CITIZENS DO NOT SUPPORT THIS.

Please let us know when public meetings and new surveys will be held.

Thank you

**Talpines Association
President Victoria Reaume**