

1/16/13

Town of Madison
Town Clerk's Office
PO Box 248
Madison, NH 03849-0248

Hi Marcia. Included here are two signed contracts along with the draft notes from the latest Library Trustee's meeting.

The first contract (Northern NH Library Cooperative Agreement) sets up an association among the Madison, Jackson, and Cook Libraries to acquire and install a computerized Integrated Library System (ILS). The system will facilitate sharing of technical expertise, staff training, catalogue access, and a wider distribution of library materials with less duplication. The association will not affect existing town-library relations, priority service to Madison residents, or ownership of library resources.

The second contract (ByWater Solutions) provides for the installation of the computerized system, maintenance (including hosting services "in the cloud"—rather than on our small computers), and staff training. The actual software is free, which is to say, jointly-developed "freeware." Madison's costs for maintenance and training are substantially less through the three-party association than if we had procured the services as a separate entity.

The purpose of bringing these contracts to your attention is to raise the question of whether they require review by Town Counsel. Inasmuch as we used a lawyer associated with the NH State Library to review the terms of association, we assume that no further review is necessary. Library associations of the sort described here are becoming common, spearheaded in part by the NH State Library. We would be happy to assist with any aspect of legal review you might deem necessary, but won't proceed further unless you feel it's required.

Sincerely yours,

Peter Stevens
Chair of Library Trustees