

# Antwerp Township Library Facility & Agreement Overview

## Purpose of This Briefing

Antwerp Township owns and maintains the largest branch facility in the Van Buren District Library system (approx. 6,680 sq ft).

## Current Agreement Responsibilities

Responsibility	Township	VBDL
Building	✓	X
Maintenance & Repairs	✓	X
Capital Improvements	✓	X
Staff & Operations	X	✓
Books & Materials	X	✓
Utilities	✓	✓
Janitorial	X	✓

**KEY POINT: The library is not required to pay for building maintenance or repairs.**

## Funding Structure

If levied at the maximum approved rate, the library millage generates between \$700,000.00 and \$750,000.00 annually from Township residents.

Township funds cover building and repairs.

**KEY POINT: Residents are funding BOTH operations and the building.**

## What Has Changed

Library revenues and reserves have increased significantly. Costs of facilities continue to rise. Agreement has not been updated since 1997.

Library has not disbursed funds to the Township over the last five years.

## Township Goals

Continue services, protect the facility, ensure fair cost-sharing, and manage taxpayer funds responsibly.

**IMPORTANT: The Township is NOT trying to remove the library.**

### **Current Status**

180-day notice issued. Deadline: June 14, 2026.

Township proposed new agreement; library proposed addendum without guaranteed contributions.

### **Key Issue**

**THE PROBLEM IS THE AGREEMENT — NOT THE LIBRARY**

Outdated structure, rising costs, and no shared financial responsibility.

### **Proposed Direction**

Fair cost-sharing, guaranteed contributions, updated contract.

### **Mediation Option**

Neutral third-party mediator proposed for transparency and fairness.

### **If No Agreement Is Reached**

Township must evaluate facility use, financial responsibility, and long-term options.

### **Community Impact**

Impacts taxpayer dollars, services, and a public facility.

### **Commitment to Residents**

Transparency, fiscal responsibility, open communication, and acting in taxpayers' best interest.