

## Weymouth library construction bid is \$2M under budget

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Construction of the new, 50,000-square-foot Tufts Library will cost about \$2.3 million less than officials anticipated.

Members of the library construction committee this week opened the four bids received from pre-qualified contractors interested in building the new main library at the current Broad Street site. Library Services Director Robert MacLean said the committee selected the lowest bid from CTA Construction Company of Waltham, which came in at just more than \$24.1 million — about \$2.3 million less than the \$26.4 million construction budget.

“With the economy, we’ve been hearing that prices were going up and we were worried that we’d have to make some unwelcome changes to the design to meet the budget,” MacLean said. “Now we don’t have to worry about that.”

The entire project – including architectural and project management fees, demolition, construction, furnishings and technology – is estimated at \$33 million. The orientation of the new building will remain largely the same, with the entrance in the same area on Broad Street.

The Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners selected the Tufts Library for its Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program last July and gave the town about \$12.1 million for the project. The grant represents about 41 percent of the eligible costs, which does not include temporary library space, furniture, computers, landscaping, walkways and parking lots.

The town council in October of last year unanimously approved Mayor Robert Hedlund’s request to borrow \$33 million to build the library.

MacLean said the town and CTA Construction are now executing the contract so that crews can start mobilizing. He said they were start next month with the abatement of hazardous materials, such as asbestos, which will take about four weeks. The company will then start deconstructing the building in a way to allow materials to be recycled. For example, MacLean said the Weymouth granite used in the current Tufts Library will be repurposed for the new amphitheatre.

“Twelve months ago the mayor had just appointed the library construction committee and we hired the architect in March, so it’s great that we’ve kept to an aggressive timeline,” MacLean said. “We’re very hopeful to stay to the timeline and be able to move in June of 2020, and library services in Weymouth will never be the same.”

Tappe Architects is the architects for the project, and Hill International is the project manager.

The current, 33,000-square-foot Tufts Library was built in 1965 and would require millions of dollars just to update systems and remove asbestos. Officials say the layout is outdated and the library no longer meets the needs of the public.

The town has extended hours at the other libraries during construction of the Tufts Library. The new hours for the Fogg Library for Kids are 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Tufts at Pratt Library is open 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday, Friday and Saturday. North Library is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, and 1 to 9 p.m. on Tuesday.

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