A meeting of the Budget Committee of the Westchester Library System was called to order at 6:00 pm on Thursday, October 19, 2017 in the WLS Training Room.

Committee members present: Edris Scherer, Chair; Dave Donelson; Sean Ryan; Karen Zevin; Catherine Draper, President.

Staff present: Terry Kirchner, Executive Director; Fran Feuerman, CFO

The committee met to review a first draft of the proposed 2018 budget. There was discussion of the assumptions behind each of the revenue lines, including the proposed 4% increase in member fees. The possibility of re-applying for eRate reimbursements was raised and it was agreed that there will be a discussion of this issue at the November board meeting.

The committee then reviewed each line of the expense budget. The fringe benefits line includes an increase of 10% for health insurance and 16% for pension expenses. Costs of dental, life and vision insurance will decrease slightly as the result of making a change in vendor so that all three of these policies are issued by the same insurance company.

Committee members asked questions about the 2018 increase in the Repairs & Maintenance line, and decrease in the Contractual Services line. There was also discussion of the budget for Professional Development, with committee members asking whether there is sufficient money in this line to ensure that staff skills are being appropriately maintained and upgraded.

The committee asked to see a budget with a 2% increase in member fees. A revised budget incorporating this change will be sent to the committee along with additional information on the expense lines questioned by committee members.