



Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Feb. 10, 2026

Attended by trustees Margaret Hartley, Josh Jaquard, Beth Teitel and Janice Waterhouse, and Library Manager Marion Allan. Absent: Trustee Colin Hagadorn. Guests: Lake Luzerne Town Supervisor James Niles and Councilmember Dane Morton.

Presiding: President Janice Waterhouse

Janice Waterhouse called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and led the board in the Pledge. Waterhouse called for a moment of silence to honor former Board President Ted Mirczak, who died on Jan. 15.

Waterhouse moved to adopt the agenda. Beth Teitel seconded. Carried. Josh Jacquard moved to accept the minutes of the Jan. 13 meeting. Waterhouse seconded. Carried.

President's Report

Waterhouse introduced the two guests from Lake Luzerne, Supervisor Niles and Councilmember Morton to discuss the town's proposal to extend the trail along the Hudson River, which would cross library property.

Morton said the town's [Master Plan](#) addresses the need to attract and retain families and businesses, in part by taking advantage to the area's scenic beauty and improving amenities for residents and visitors. One goal is to build out the Riverside Trail so that it runs from the Adirondack Folk School to the Hadley Bridge. He said the ideal situation would be for the Library to grant the town an easement for the part of the trail that would cross library property, but that they are open to other ways to access the property if need be. With an easement, the town lawyers would draw up the agreement. Supervisor Niles said the goal is that the arrangement would take care of any "what ifs" in order to shift potential liability from the library to the town. Morton noted that the trail would be fenced so there would not be access to the rocks and falls, and estimated that construction would take a few months.

The two said what they were looking for at this meeting was a sense of whether the library board supports the project, so that they can start applying for grants.

The trustees all expressed support for the plan, with the understanding that the library's attorney will offer an opinion on the best way to proceed and review all agreements from the town's lawyer.

Waterhouse brought the discussion to the budget, and invited Teitel to talk about payroll. Teitel said when considering payroll as a part of overall expenditures, it accounts for about 65 percent of the budget, which is in line with average library spending. Jacquard said the board should not be

considering overall expenditures of previous budgets, which were not balanced, but actual tax revenue. That would put payroll near 80 percent of the budget, he said. Teitel said the answer is to increase revenue. Waterhouse and Teitel expressed the need to fundraise and to request an increase in funding from taxpayers as the library has not sought an increase in 5 years. Waterhouse again suggested drawing some money from reserves and concentrating on fundraising to replace those funds. Jacquard expressed opposition to spending any more than the tax allotment. Hartley suggested a compromise that could include some reduction in payroll as well as serious fundraising. Waterhouse said trustees from other libraries have shared that cutting payroll is not considered efficient or effective. Library Manager Marion Allan noted she is always looking for grants. She said the library has blossomed with robust programing and staff cuts would jeopardize that.

Waterhouse reported that SALS Director Kim Bolan visited the library and met with Waterhouse, Teitel and Allan. Bolan is sharing information on budgets for small libraries.

Vice President of Finance Report

Colin Hagadorn was absent but had provided a finance report, showing expenses of \$5,600.53. Balances include \$69,635.64 in CDs; \$262,629.47 in the interest-bearing account; and \$10,117.84 in the operating account. Because that includes the money slated for fiscal year 2026-27, which begins July 1, the available amount to spend through June is \$56,807.03.

Teitel moved to approve paying the bills. Hartley seconded. Carried.

Manager's report

Library Manager Marion Allan noted that Library Programmer Taylor Stelitano gave notice that she will be leaving the library effective March 21. Allan said she has posted the job and is seeking a replacement. Waterhouse and Hartley thanked Stelitano for the amazing work she has done for the library.

Allan noted there had been fraudulent charges on the JP Morgan card. JP Morgan refunded the library in full and issued a new card. Allan said the old card was destroyed.

The past month saw 676 patrons, including 112 who attended library programs. Total circulation was 586 items.

Public Comment

Michael Allan of Hadley asked if the reason the library has not seen an increase in the tax allotment in 5 years was because a proposed increase was voted down or because such a proposal was never put before voters. And he cautioned the board to be careful about considering cutting payroll because "you get what you pay for."

Adjournment

At 7:35 Teitel moved to adjourn. Hartley seconded. Carried.

The next regular board meeting will be on March. 10 at 6:30 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Board Secretary Margaret Hartley

