

MAPL January Board Meeting 01/12/2026



Morris Area Public Library
January 12, 2026
Board of Trustees General Meeting Minutes
6:30 pm
Morris Area Public Library Conference Room

Minutes-

- 1. Call to Order and Roll Call**
 - a. Called to order at 6:30 P.M.
 - b. Roll Call: Cummings, Ebert, Geiger, Keavney, Keegan, Peterson and Russell were all present.
 - c. Library Interim Director Barowsky was present, along with guests Baylen, Berndt, Burton, Eallonardo, Fischer, Meyer, Murray, Sandoval and Squires. Sargent arrived at 6:34 P.M.
- 2. Review of Agenda for Additions/ Changes:**
 - a. none
- 3. Construction Update -**
 - a. Eallonardo
 - i. No issues with the permit because of the floor delay
 - ii. Flooring is holding Phase 1 from completion. Cannot move ahead until flooring is all down
 - iii. HVAC issues have shown that three units are bad with two of the three needing to be completely shut down for safety reasons
 - iv. The reason for the failures is lack of maintenance for the past four years
 - v. Roughly 18-22k per unit to replace
 - vi. Since the ceilings were removed, the HVAC units are required to work harder than they were originally intended. The change has increased the load on the system because it now heating a larger open space than it was designed for
 - vii. The mover's price came in and includes all three moves. This would reduce the amount of library closure and be less on the staff
 - viii. Barowsky thanked Eallonardo for all his help on the project and the HVAC issues
- 4. Correspondence, Communications, and Public Comment**
 - a. Meyer raised three questions for the Board concerning mismanaged daily funds and construction related issues involving the former Director and Board Members
 - b. Squires spoke about solar panels
- 5. Consent Agenda**
 - a. A motion was made by Keavney and seconded by Keegan to approve the Consent Agenda. With the correction of Russell being spelled correctly In the December Board meeting minutes. 7-0
- 6. Interim Directors Report**
 - a. Community
 - i. The Morris Women's Club hosted a table in the library to give patrons the opportunity to sign holiday cards for Veterans
 - ii. Staff member M. Wills developed an interactive winter window display that encouraged the community to participate. Due to its success we plan to offer additional interactive displays throughout the year
 - b. Programs
 - i. All the numbers looked very good despite December being a lighter month due to the holidays
 - ii. Several new programs aimed at 18-30 will begin in the next few months. Including Horror Movie Night, The Nexus and Art Unplugged
 - iii. May 2, 2026 is going to be Comic Book Day and we are hoping that will also be our Grand Opening for the new space. We will have the Mystery Machine from Scooby Doo in the back parking lot and a costumed character of Scooby Doo for photos in the basement
 - c. Building

MAPL January Board Meeting 01/12/2026



- i. During the planned power outage, the unit that heats the basement did not restart. It was determined to not be related to the outage. During the inspection it was noted the filters had not been changed for an extended period of time
 - d. Followup
 - i. Our new phone system has arrived and T. Sargent is working on installing them
 - ii. The collection weeding has been completed
 - iii. Barowsky will move forward with the banking issues previously discussed after the minutes get approved
 - iv. The auditor and Barowsky met up to discuss prior bookkeeping issues and have been cleared up
 - v. We have completed the FY25 Per Capita Grant application
 - vi. We have received the new credit cards and updated the policy
 - vii. Community Foundation of Grundy County awarded us a grant of \$5000.00 for an interactive Teen Space
 - e. Other Information
 - i. We will need to re-evaluate the cleaning service and janitorial supply schedule once we move into Phase 2 of the expansion project
 - ii. Barowsky was going over the policy manual and will work with the Personnel and Policy Committee to make recommendations for updating. There are several policies that need to be reviewed annually by the board and we can make a schedule to make them align with the board calendar
 - iii. The staff is all doing great and are happy to work here again
- 7. President's report**
 - a. Keavney has two Director search proposals
 - i. Ebert would like to create an evaluation tool and job description
 - ii. Barowsky would like to know where the money is going to come from as we don't know where the money paid out to the ex Director should come out of
 - b. Keavney said we are not in a hurry that Barowsky is doing a great job and she will look into more proposals
- 8. Vice President's Report**
 - a. None
- 9. Committee Reports**
 - a. **Finance Committee (Geiger)**
 - i. None
 - b. **Facilities & Technology Committee (Ebert/Russell)**
 - i. None
 - c. **Personnel & Policy Committee (Cummings/Keavney)**
 - i. None
 - d. **Strategic Plan Committee (Keavney)**
 - i. None
- 10. Review of Illinois Library Standard - Barowsky**
 - a. Access
 - i. Barowsky really learned a lot during the Per Capita Grant paperwork
- 11. Unfinished business**
 - a. None
- 12. New Business**
 - a. Approval of Credit Card Policy
 - i. A motion was made to approve the Credit Card Policy as presented by Keavney and seconded by Ebert 7-0
 - b. Approval of Additional Flooring Expenditure
 - i. A motion to allow purchase of material not to exceed \$20k was made by Cummings and seconded by Ebert 7-0
 - c. Approval of Moving Expenditure
 - i. Cummings motioned to approve hiring movers and Geiger seconded 7-0
- 13. Other**
 - a. None

MAPL January Board Meeting 01/12/2026



14. Executive Session

- a. None

Executive session pursuant to 5ILCS 102/2: the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity.

Executive session pursuant to 5ILCS 102/3: the selection of a person to fill a public office, as defined in this Act, including a vacancy in a public office, when the public body is given the power to appoint under law or ordinance, or the discipline, performance or removal of the occupant of a public office when the public body is given the power to remove the occupant under law or ordinance.

15. Action on Executive Session

- a. None

16. Adjournment

- a. A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:56 P.M. by Keavney and seconded by Cummings

All topics on the agenda are potential action items.

The Morris Area Public Library District is subject to the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Individuals with disabilities who plan to attend this meeting and who require certain accommodations in order to allow them to observe and/or participate in this meeting, or who have questions regarding the accessibility of the meeting for the facilities, are required to contact the library administrator at (815) 942-6880 x116 promptly to allow the Morris Area Public Library District to make reasonable accommodations for those persons.

_____, Board Secretary