

Morris Area Public Library
March 09, 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, Geiger, Keavney, Keegan, Peterson, and Russell were all present.
 - c. Motion to allow Ebert in remotely at 6:33 p.m. Geiger motioned and Russell seconded 5-1
 - d. Library Interim Director Barowsky was present, along with guests Berndt, Biasella, Burton, Eallonardo, Fischer, Meyer, Sandoval and Sargent
- 2. Review of Agenda for Additions/ Changes:**
 - a. none
- 3. Construction Update -**
 - a. Eallonardo
 - i. Things are moving along as expected
 - ii. Waiting for the total on the soil testing and thinks it should be lower than what was originally thought
 - iii. Motion to add electric now for cameras was made by Cummings and seconded by Geiger 7-0
 - iv. The locked closet in the office originally was set to be left concrete but we cannot do that so it will be just a labor cost we have extra flooring
 - v. Unexpected cost in removing of existing soffit to accommodate the clouds and rework the fire alarm
 - vi. Motion to approve Narvick Brothers Construction Corp. Change Order #1 for asbestos abatement and authorization for the Board President to sign the contract change order was motioned by Keavney and seconded by Cummings 7-0
- 4. Correspondence, Communications, and Public Comment**
 - a. None
- 5. Consent Agenda**
 - a. A motion was made by Cummings and seconded by Keavney to approve the February 9 and 23 Board Meetings minutes. With the exception of the bank accounts because Barowsky explained the updates and the new reports.
 - b. A motion was made by Cummings and seconded by Keavney to approve the financials as presented 7-0
- 6. Interim Directors Report**
 - a. Community
 - i. Burton attended a Grundy County Interagency meeting which she thinks there are several opportunities for the library. She also attended a Community Foundation meeting in regards to the Sanford Teen Grant. Burton included reports on both meetings
 - b. Programs
 - i. Storytime numbers raised significantly since the new space opened
 - ii. We have started to purchase the items for the Teen\Tween gaming area through the grant we received from the Community Foundation
 - c. Building
 - i. The transition into Phase 2 went well, the movers were great
 - ii. We are still working with the cleaning company
 - iii. We failed the backflow and sprinkler inspection
 - d. Professional Development
 - i. Staff logged 10 hours of professional development
 - ii. There is still trustees that have not turned in their sexual harassment prevention training
 - e. Follow up
 - i. Barowsky met with Ray Grossi from Midwest Signs about the Gregg Mural
 - f. Other Information

- i. The Illinois Comptroller's Office contacted us regarding the delinquent filing of its Annual Financial Report. The auditor is responsible for this and will pay the fines
- ii. Murray and Barowsky completed the Illinois State Annual Online Certification
- iii. It was noted that we still do not have access to our social media accounts due to the former director, efforts to regain access are ongoing
- iv. The ADA accessibility requirements for public entities will begin in 2027. This includes all materials not just the website and will begin an annual expense

7. President's report

- a. Update on Director Search
 - i. Still do not have a job description prepared
 - ii. Trustees need to come up with dates to schedule preliminary phone interviews
 - iii. Deiters & Todd provided the job advertisement they created

8. Vice President's Report

- a. Wants to look into Open Meetings Act training through the the Attorney General's Office

9. Committee Reports

- a. **Finance Committee (Geiger)**
 - i. Geiger asked several questions, which were addressed by the Interim Director
- b. **Facilities & Technology Committee (Ebert/Russell)**
 - i. None
- c. **Personnel & Policy Committee (Cummings/Keavney)**
 - i. The trustee remote policy needs clarification
- d. **Strategic Plan Committee (Keavney)**
 - i. None

10. Review of Illinois Library Standard - Barowsky

- a. Buildings & Grounds

11. Unfinished business

- a. Approval of Policy Manual Section 2: Collection Development and Book Selection and Appendix: Citizen's Request for Reconsideration of Materials form as reviewed and recommended by the Personnel and Policy Committee
 - i. A motion was made by Cummings and seconded by Geiger to approve this policy update
- b. Approval of Pay Scale & Step Placement Policy, Appendix: Pay Grade Assignments and Appendix: Organizational Chart as reviewed and recommended by the Personnel and Policy Committee
 - i. Cummings motioned and Geiger seconded the new policy
- c. Budgetary Draft of FY26-27 Pay Scale concept

12. New Business

13. Other

- a. None

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 8:18 P.M. by Keavney and seconded by Peterson