MORRIS AREA PUBLIC LIBRARY

**Morris Area Public Library**
**July 13, 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, and Russel were present. Ebert attended via Zoom after a vote. Peterson was absent.
    - **c.** Motion to approve remote attendance for Ebert. Moved by Keavney and seconded by Geiger. Approved 4-1.
    - **d.** Library Director Hanson was present, along with guests Barwosky, Biasella, Burton, Sandoval, Meyer, and Sargent.
2. **Review of Agenda for Additions/ Changes**:
    - **a.** None
3. **Correspondence, Communications, and Public Comment**
    - **a.** A letter from Dr. Meyer was read, complimenting the staff on their management of the library during this time of transition.
    - **b.** Keegan had several questions from the community.
        - i. Is it possible for a patron to track the books that they check out?
        - ii. Do patrons need a library card to use the Xerox machines?
        - iii. Can the board meet a new staff member at each meeting?
4. **Consent Agenda**
    - **a.** A motion was made by Cummings and seconded by Keegan to approve the consent agenda as presented, and it was approved 5-0.
5. **Interim Director's Report**
    - **a.** Community
        - i. The Music in the Park Concert was a tremendous success, with nearly 300 attendees.
        - ii. The next larger event at the library is the Art Explosion held during the Liberty Street Arts festival.
    - **b.** Programs
        - i. Over 200 patrons have registered for our Summer Adventure Program, which will conclude with the Children's Day Celebration on August 1.
        - ii. The library has secured an Illinois Humanities Road Scholar grant to host a performance of Louis Armstrong's music, presented by John Cooper on July 25.
        - iii. Several Community Members have expressed an interest in leading programs: Mahjong, Teen D&D, and Ukulele meetup.
        - iv. The Grundy County Community Foundation will provide a grant for Teen Students to attend the ISU Shakespeare in the Park in July.
    - **c.** Building
        - i. Narvick is working through the remaining punch list items while the architect and construction consultant continue to evaluate unexpected issues.
        - ii. The library has experienced several roof leaks during the recent heavy rains. A formal assessment of the roof will be needed to determine the appropriate course of action.
        - iii. The HVAC units experienced another outage. The units have been repaired; however, our HVAC contractor continues to express concerns about their overall condition due to deferred maintenance over the past several years.
        - iv. The elevator continues to experience intermittent operational issues and oil leaks. The board has been presented with additional information on repairs.
        - v. Water continues to pool at the bottom of the stairs, and patron access to this area is currently restricted. The main stairwell should be formally assessed and prioritized in the library's long-term facility improvement plan.
        - vi. There are lighting issues in the Children's section, and the electrical engineers are developing a plan to address them.

   vii. It is recommended that the library retain our construction consultant beyond the completion of the expansion project to assist with evaluating both immediate and long-term facility needs, developing recommendations, and creating a prioritized capital improvement plan for the library. This work will be done in conjunction with a formal engineering assessment of the building.

**d.** Follow up

   i. The annual audit has been rescheduled from August 11 to August 13.

**e.** Other Information

   i. No Policy Manual Appendices were changed in June.
   ii. There will be a comprehensive appraisal of the library building, its contents, and the library's artwork collection. The cost of the appraisal will be covered through the FY27 Per Capita Grant, which is designated to support the library's efforts to meet and maintain Illinois library standards.
   iii. Tanya Berndt has accepted a new professional opportunity and, effective July 1, will transition to a part-time role at the library. Some of her responsibilities will need to be reassigned due to her reduced schedule.
   iv. The Library is required to hold a public hearing for the annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance prior to its adoption. The public hearing has been scheduled for Monday, August 17, 2026, at 6:30 PM. Following the public hearing, the Board will hold a special meeting to formally adopt the Budget and Appropriation Ordinance.
   v. State requirements mandate that notice of the public hearing be published and made available to the public at least 30 days in advance. The notice is scheduled for publication in the newspaper and will also be posted at the library and on the library's website. The Tentative Budget and Appropriation Ordinance will be available for public inspection at the library and online prior to the hearing.

6. **Director's Report**
   a. Hanson is excited to be here and to learn new things.
7. **Vice President's Report**
   **a.** will work on new training materials in August.
8. **Committee Reports**
   **a. Finance Committee (Geiger)**
      i. Is concerned about the cost of upcoming major repairs on the library's finances.
   **b. Facilities & Technology Committee (Ebert/Russell)**
      i. Handed over the facilities binder to the Director to help with the new facilities plan.
   **c. Personnel & Policy Committee (Cummings/Keavney)**
      i. None
   **d. Strategic Plan Committee (Keavney)**
      i. None
9. **Review of Illinois Library Standards - Barowsky**
   **a.** Human Resources
      i. Need to develop succession plans.
10. **Unfinished business**
    **a.** None.
11. **New Business**
    **a.** Keegan asked questions regarding the library's website and its ability to meet the library's current needs.
    **b.** Keegan asked about moving the library's drop box to a more convenient location.
    **c.** The parking lot needs to be evaluated and refinished. The Director will check in with the city.
    **d.** The Board discussed the possibility of having staff members give presentations about their individual roles and responsibilities at the library.
    **e.** Cummings asked when the Women's Club information would be added to the mural.

12. **Other**
    **a.** None
13. **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.

14. **Action on Executive Session**
    a. None
15. **Adjournment**
    a. A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:28 P.M. by Keavney and seconded by Cummings

________________________________ , Board Secretary