

## **MONROE COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES**

1. At a Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Monroe County Library System held on July 9, 2025, at the Temporary location of the Navarre Branch Library, the meeting was called to order by Chair Peven at 5:00 p.m. Mr. Peven declared that a quorum was present.

Present: Rob Peven, Chair; Beth LaPensee, Vice-Chair; Rita Gordon, Secretary; Cathe Calder, Trustee; Mike Grodi, Trustee; and Nancy Bellaire, Director

Staff: Barbra Krueger; Lou Komorowski; Amber Reed; Paul Robinson; Niko Mantas; Hannah Pifer; Kellie Vining; Paige Bourbina

A quorum being present, the Board proceeded to transact business.

2. Motion by Cathe Calder, supported by Rita Gordon, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.
3. Motion by Mike Grodi, supported by Beth LaPensee, to approve the minutes of the June 11, 2025 meeting. Motion carried.

4. Public Comment

Monroe Community Librarian Amber Reed welcomed the board to Navarre. She shared information about the temporary Navarre facility and introduced staff members Hannah Pifer, Kellie Vining, and Niko Mantas. They spoke about programs, activities, and the neighborhood garden adjacent to the parking lot, inviting board members to share in the recently harvested basket of cilantro. Amber also introduced Paige Bourbina and Dr. Margaret Paauw, who updated the board on our social work intern program.

5. Consent Agenda – Motion by Cathe Calder, supported by Rita Gordon, to accept the items on the consent agenda as presented, including correspondence and the June 2025, Financial Reports, and place on file. Motion carried.

6. Committee Reports

**Finance Committee** – The financial reports show that we have received almost 87% of our projected revenue and have spent almost 47% of our planned expenditures at the half-way point in the budget year. Penal fines remain significantly below pre-covid levels, totaling \$59,887 for the distribution received this week. Tax notices are ready for board approval and this topic appears on today's agenda.

**Facilities Committee** – No meeting. Nancy shared photos of the Navarre construction and reported on the new generator for the Ellis server room and repair work on the main entry doors at Ellis.

**Policy and Personnel Committee** – The timeline for Nancy's performance review appears later on the agenda.

**Technology Committee** – No meeting. Paul Robinson updated the board on security updates to our network and technology procedures.

**Woodlands Update** – None.

**Legislative Update** – None.

7. Unfinished Business – AI Policy: Paul reported that suggestions and questions from Technology Chair LaPensee have been forwarded to the staff AI committee and that they will be meeting in the coming weeks.
8. New Business – Motion by Mike Grodi, supported by Beth LaPensee, to approve payment of the bills for the month ending June 30, 2025, in the amount of \$380,340.13. Motion carried.  
Motion by Cathe Calder, supported by Mike Grodi, to approve sending out the 2025 tax notices based on figures provided by the Equalization Department. Motion carried.  
Motion by Cathe Calder, supported by Beth LaPensee, to conduct Director Bellaire's Performance Evaluation at the October, 2025, board meeting with Ms. Bellaire submitting her self-evaluation to the board in advance. Motion carried.  
Motion by Beth LaPensee, supported by Mike Grodi, to close all MCLS Branches and Departments on May 1, 2026, for a day of staff training. Motion carried.  
Motion by Mike Grodi, supported by Beth LaPensee, to cancel the August 13, MCLS Library Board meeting. Motion carried.
9. Staff Report – Barbra Krueger updated the board on upcoming Monroe County Fair Parade and booth activities. She also shared updates on the Library of Things, and a non-profit program called "Reach out and Read" that will place books for children from birth-5 years old in the offices of doctors.
10. Director Bellaire shared photos of a Michigan State Police Weigh Station tour that former Director Colpaert and she took last month. She updated the board on workshops on FOIA, the Open Meetings Act, and Cyber Security. She also reported on the River Raisin Battlefield Ribbon cutting and a Michigan State Heritage Award for Reverend Robert Jones.
11. Board Comments—The board thanked the Navarre Staff for hosting the meeting and complimented them on the warm, positive vibe present in the Temporary Navarre Branch. They also thanked Paige and Dr. Margaret Paauw for their report on the Social Work Intern program. Chair Peven, Trustees Grodi, and Calder, talked about sessions that they attended at the American Library Association including those on AI. Chair Peven also asked Amber to share background information about Lillian Stewart Navarre.
12. Public comment – None.
13. Announcements  
Date of Next Board Meeting – September 10 @ 5 p.m. at the Dundee Branch, Dundee, Michigan

14. Adjournment

Motion by Cathe Calder, supported by Mike Grodi, to adjourn the meeting at 6:06 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

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Rita Gordon, Secretary

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Rob Peven, Chair