

Bethlehem Public Library Trustee Meeting Minutes | October 5, 2026

Members Present: Douglas Harman, Nora Clark, Len Grubbs, Sara Plumley, Stephen Dignazio, Barbara Szeidler, Lisa Ffrench and Melissa Smith

Absent: Laura Clerkin, Kim Koprowski

Librarian Present: Rebecca Goldstein, Library Associate

Public Present: None

The meeting commenced at 7:00pm

Meeting Minutes

Nora Clark moved to accept the September minutes as written. Stephen Dignazio seconded. Lisa Ffrench abstained. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

The current budget report reflects \$1,000 over budget. Excluding facilities expenses, the budget is approximately \$6,000 favorable at the nine-month mark.

Sara Plumley moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Lisa Ffrench seconded. The motion passed.

Old Business

None.

New Business

None.

Committees

HR -

None.

Building and Grounds -

Rebecca reported that a tree near the Story Walk needs to be removed. Laura will obtain a quote for removal.

Finance -

The Finance Committee presented the preliminary 2027 budget. The board reviewed and discussed proposed increases and decreases and the reasons for the adjustments.

The budget is pending additional information from the Town. The timing for receipt of the Town figures is currently unknown. Len advised that once the information is received, the committee will update the budget proposal; however, the revisions are not expected to affect the library's budget totals.

The Treasurer also noted that an expense for a new copier was included in the proposed budget should the library determine that an additional copier is needed.

The Town budget meeting is scheduled for October 26.

Barbara Szeidler moved to accept the proposed 2027 budget as presented, with the understanding that revisions will be made once the Town provides final figures for pending line items. Sara Plumley seconded. All were in favor. The motion passed.

Bylaws and Policies -

None.

Technology -

None.

Librarian's Report

Rebecca reported that Laura received a quote for a new Xerox contract that included free copies but was advised that Xerox no longer offers that option. Rebecca noted that the library has occasionally had to turn down copying requests due to limited capacity. The frequency of copying requests varies, and the board discussed circumstances that could result in increased demand. The board discussed the difficulty of predicting future demand and whether investing in an additional copier would be worthwhile long-term.

Public Input/Library Updates

- The final week of the book sale is underway; remaining books may be saved for next year's sale.
- Library card sign-ups were strong.
- Library events had good attendance last month.
- A new board game night is being organized by a patron.
- Rebecca will be hosting a paint night.
- Laura began using Substack for newsletters, resulting in a savings of approximately \$55 per month.
- No donations were received last month.

Sara Plumley made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:21pm. Len Grubbs seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Melissa Smith