

Approved Minutes February 17, 2026
Edward U. Demmer Memorial Library
Library Board of Trustees Meeting

Trustee Attendance: Dan McKissack, Dianna Blicharz (virtual), Rich Mahlerwein, Kathleen Olkowski (virtual), Karen Meyer (virtual), Patty Wallesverd(arrives at 4:01),

Other Attendees: Jill Roth, April Hansen

Absent: Jeff Boehm (excused)

Dan McKissack called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Agenda:

Motion by Rich, seconded by Karen, to approve the agenda in any order. All ayes, motion carried. (Patty arrives)

Approval of Minutes:

Motion by Patty, seconded by Kathleen to approve the regular meeting minutes of January 20, 2026, as presented. All ayes, motion carried.

Correspondence: Statistics and infographics were presented to the board based on 2024 statistics. 2025 statistics would be updated around May. The board asked if the numbers would change significantly in 2025. The number of County users without a library in their municipality has increased. The staff sent a card to a patron going through cancer. He and his wife later listed the Demmer Library staff as part of his support team.

Committee Reports:

Three Lakes Public Library Foundation: The Foundation began meeting monthly on the last Monday of the month. The Foundation financials were still in good shape, with a rather conservative portfolio. They were updating bylaws to include virtual meetings. They were still working on how mini grants and other processes would work. Dianna agreed to provide Jill with the bank totals as far as designated and undesignated funds.

Oneida County Library Board: The board met Thursday, February 12th. Each director shared creative ideas for programming in their area. The board planned to review Chapter 43 and bylaws at the July 16 meeting. The Directors continued developing the plan of service.

Friends of the Library Revival: The next book sale was scheduled for Memorial Day weekend. The book donations room had new donations and remained in good condition. A couple new people had come forward to be recruited for the Friends group.

Director's Report: The director reported the Annual Report was complete. Highlights included doubling foot traffic in the building from 2023 to 2025, increased program attendance, fewer programs with larger audiences, and increased meeting room use aligned with digital bookings. The change in labor laws a year ago meant Jill had become an hourly employee and with labor laws reverting back, she requested to return to a salaried employee. She would make approximately the same amount as last year. Rich agreed to write a letter to the town requesting her status be changed back to salary.

Building and Maintenance Report:

Garbage Enclosure: A new quote was received for garbage fencing from Country Side Fencing in Wausau. The quote did not include the concrete pad, but was less expensive. It also included post drilling, hinges, and gate. Dan requested a copy of the new quote. The board asked whether the quote included sending a crew for installation. Jill agreed to request a quote broken down by labor and materials.

Budget Review:

Public Accounts: Motion by Rich, seconded by Patty to pay bills listed on the public funds voucher list. Discussion. All ayes, motion carried.

Special Accounts: Motion by Rich, seconded by Patty to approve payment of the bills from the Forward Bank Special Account. All ayes, motion carried.

2026 Budget Review: A comment was made that this covered approximately 6 weeks of expenses, from the end of December through the second week of February. The board also noted natural gas costs.

Unfinished Business

Landscaping Project: The board discussed the northeast corner [of the property], the side by the veterans' memorial. No updates were reported. Dianna agreed to connect with Linnea on when she can come to a meeting to update the board.

Ann Asbeck Recognition: April shared Tom Asbecks wishes. Tom stated he would like to fund something specifically for kids and literacy. He was comfortable with anything the board chose to do as a memorial. A suggestion was made to create a brick or book memorial in the Celebration Garden. Dianna suggested Linnea come to a meeting and tell us what could be done with the donated funds.

Planning for Candidate Forum: Discussion. The board reduced the questions to approximately four. Members agreed on a panel format. Candidates would receive a list of questions along with a reminder about the forum. The board discussed virtual attendance. Member agreed to invite the one school board member who is running. Patty agreed to review the school board questions and send them to Dan to edit down the large number of questions.

Advocacy Goals: An informal meeting was held at Deja Brew. One member brought their own elevator speech. The members agreed they were the primary advocates for the library and should be able speak about it on several levels. The board agreed to come up with "Devil's Advocate" questions they could then formulate responses to.

New Business:

Review and approve the 2025 Public Library Annual Report: The library's in-county circulation were up while out of county circulations were down. Motion by Patty, seconded Rich to accept the annual report as presented. All ayes, motion carried.

Review and approve the Statement Concerning Public Library System Effectiveness: Motion by Kathleen, seconded by Karen, to accept and approve the Statement Concerning Public Library System Effectiveness. All ayes, motion carried.

Comments from public:

Next Meeting: Regular meeting on March 17, 2026, 4:00 p.m. in the lower level of the library and/or via video/teleconference

The meeting adjourned at 5:13 PM. Motion by Patty, Seconded by Rich All ayes. Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted: Jill Roth, Director