

Minutes of the
Ray Township Public Library
Regular Board Meeting
February 16th, 2026
Held at the Ray Township Public Library

The Ray Township Public Library Chairperson, Jim Jerse, called the meeting to order at the Ray Township Public Library

PRESENT: **Jim Jerse, Chairperson**
 Marla Stabile, Member
 Tammy Boettcher, Member
 Mary Barnes, Treasurer
 Christy DeMeulenaere, Director
 Wayne Conner, Vice-Chairperson

ABSENT WITH NOTICE: **Barbara Rollins, Secretary**

ALSO PRESENT: **N/A**

Barnes added under New Business
E. Grant. The Ralf C. Wilson Junior Grant

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Received as amended.

APPROVAL OF THE BOARD MEETING MINUTES JANUARY 19TH, 2026

The minutes were approved as distributed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Barnes stated that

- Bills List \$3,453.39
- Bank Interest \$43.71
- Bank Fee \$.15
- Payroll \$1,896.40
- Payroll \$3,136.95
- Total \$8,530.60

APPROVAL OF THE February 16th, 2026 BILLS LIST

MOTION by Conner, supported by Boettcher, to approve the February 16th, Bills List and cover letter as presented for \$8,8530.60.

AYES: **ALL**
NAYES: **NONE**
ABSENT: **Barbara Rollins, Secretary**
MOTION: **Carried.**

BUDGET TO ACTUAL

Barnes stated that some line items are above the 83% run rate and will be discussed under New Business

The budget to Actual will be filed for Audit

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

DeMeulenaere reviewed the report with the board

- All story times have been planned for the rest of 2026
- New March Events Flyer was passed out
- SLC has a new Director, Kathy Mckinny

Friends of the Ray Township Library and Historical Society

DeMeulenaere reviewed the group's quarterly meeting.

- Calendars are now \$5.00
- Reviewed information about the America250MI Grant, the group should find out the results within the first 2 weeks of March
- Beyond the Stone Presentation, April 30th, with Dr. Thomas Henthorn about restoring headstones. Location TBD
- Silent Auction in the Library July 29-August 15th, 2026
- 2026 Membership now open
- May 15th cleaning stones at Proctor Cemetery.

Committees

Policies - Tabled

Personnel: Tabled

Budget - Did meet and will review under new business.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

A. Draft of new Fiscal Budget from Finance Committee

Barnes stated the last column of the graph was the proposed budget for 2026-2027. There is an Increase of wages and social security/medicare, a 10% increase for insurance. A Decrease in programs and additional added to ebooks which allowed the Library to use the Advantage Account through Overdrive. There is also an increase in rent, paying for a full year. Jerse stated at the next meeting the board will approve the proposed budget.

B.2 Review and Amend Current Budget

Barnes stated that amending the budget will balance out the current budget.

- Reduce Repair and Maintenance to \$400.00
- Increase E-Books to \$10,160.00
- Increase Printing and Publishing to \$1,600.00
- Decrease Utilities - Telephone to 0
- Increase Insurance to \$4,445.00
- Increase Travel - Mileage to \$1,150.00

- Increase State Aid to Cooperative to \$2,560.00
- Increase Employers Soc/Medi to \$6,150.00

APPROVAL OF THE 2025-2026 BUDGET AMENDMENTS

MOTION by Conner, supported by Boettcher, to approve the proposed 2025-2026 Budget Amendments as presented.

AYES: ALL
NAYES: NONE
ABSENT: Barbara Rollins, Secretary
MOTION: Carried.

- B. Set up Public Hearing on Library Budget for March

APPROVAL OF THE ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING

MOTION by Conner, supported by Boettcher, to approve the annual budget meeting for March 2026.

AYES: ALL
NAYES: NONE
ABSENT: Barbara Rollins, Secretary
MOTION: Carried.

- C. Board conducts annual performance review of Director
Jerse and Barnes will meet before the next meeting and prepare the Director's Review. Tabled.
- D. Recommendations from Director on budget and salary Compensation
Jerse reviewed the salary compensation with a 3% and 5% Increase. DeMeulenaere stated that there is typically an additional 15 hours beyond open hours for programming, off-site programming and cleaning.

APPROVAL OF PAY INCREASE FOR DIRECTOR, CHRISTY DEMEULENAERE

MOTION by Barnes, supported by Boettcher, to approve an increase of pay from \$27.00 p/hr to \$28.00 p/hr effective 4/6/2026.

AYES: ALL
NAYES: NONE
ABSENT: Barbara Rollins, Secretary
MOTION: Carried.

APPROVAL OF PAY INCREASE FOR LIBRARY ASSISTANT, PAIGE JONES

MOTION by Conner, supported by Barnes , to approve an increase of pay from \$19.00 p/hr to \$20.00 p/hr effective 4/6/2026.

AYES: ALL
NAYES: NONE
ABSENT: Barbara Rollins, Secretary
MOTION: Carried.

APPROVAL OF PAY INCREASE FOR LIBRARY CLERK, STEPHANIE MARBERG

MOTION by Barnes, supported by Boettcher , to approve an increase of pay from \$16.00 p/hr to \$16.50 p/hr effective 4/6/2026.

AYES: ALL
NAYES: NONE
ABSENT: Barbara Rollins, Secretary
MOTION: Carried.

APPROVAL OF PAY INCREASE FOR LIBRARY CLERK, MARENA PERAINO

MOTION by Barnes, supported by Boettcher , to approve an increase of pay from \$16.00 p/hr to \$16.50 p/hr effective 4/6/2026.

AYES: ALL
NAYES: NONE
ABSENT: Barbara Rollins, Secretary
MOTION: Carried.

APPROVAL OF PAY INCREASE FOR LIBRARY CLERK, TRISH BLOOM

MOTION by Barnes, supported by Boettcher , to approve an increase of pay from \$15.00 p/hr to \$15.50 p/hr effective 4/6/2026.

AYES: ALL
NAYES: NONE
ABSENT: Barbara Rollins, Secretary
MOTION: Carried.

APPROVAL OF PAY INCREASE FOR LIBRARY CLERK, DEENA VANCAMP

MOTION by Barnes, supported by Boettcher , to approve an increase of pay from \$15.00 p/hr to \$15.50 p/hr effective 4/6/2026.

AYES: ALL
NAYES: NONE
ABSENT: Barbara Rollins, Secretary
MOTION: Carried.

APPROVAL OF PAY INCREASE FOR LIBRARY CLERK, RENNA BARNES

MOTION by Boettcher, supported by Stabile , to approve an increase of pay from \$14.00 p/hr to \$15.00 p/hr effective 4/6/2026.

AYES: ALL
NAYES: NONE
ABSENT: Barbara Rollins, Secretary
MOTION: Carried.

APPROVAL OF PAY INCREASE FOR LIBRARY CLERK, KENZIE SHAW

MOTION by Barnes, supported by Boettcher , to approve an increase of pay from \$14.00 p/hr to \$15.00 p/hr effective 4/6/2026.

AYES: ALL
NAYES: NONE
ABSENT: Barbara Rollins, Secretary
MOTION: Carried.

- E. Ralf C. Wilson Junior Grant
Barnes stated that it was announced at the Suburban Library Cooperative Meeting that there is a grant for rural libraries through the Library Network. Ray can apply for \$500,000.00 just for SLC Libraries. Clarification has not been received on how the money will be allocated. The grant is extremely broad on what it can be used for. Jerse stated that once additional information is available a subcommittee can be formed.

ITEMS FOR MARCH

2026-2027 Fiscal Budget approved

PUBLIC COMMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE:

N/A

ADJOURNMENT

No further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:29pm

Respectfully submitted by:

Christy DeMeulenaere, Director

Approved by:

Jim Jerse, Chairperson

Barbara Rollins, Secretary
