

Fruitport District Library Board of Directors
Regular Meeting
Wednesday, March 18, 2026

The meeting was called to order by President Anna Dudas at 5:30 p.m.

Present: Ruth Woodward, Bill Overkamp, Nan Riekse, Anna Dudas, Pat Walstra, Alison Anderson, and Teresa Folkmier.

Also, in attendance: Matt Lubbers-Moore, Patricia Gallagher, Karla Brown, Donna Esch, and Todd Dunham.

The agenda was approved as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

Todd Dunham, Fruitport Township Supervisor spoke to the group about the property on Quarterline Road which is owned by the Township. There are 10 acres which they envision as including a dog park and pickleball courts, although nothing has been acted on yet. The area is part of the DDA (Downtown Development Authority) and includes water and sewer. They are also considering sidewalk or bikepath down both Pontaluna Rd. and Quarterline Rd. at some time in the future. He, personally would love to see the library share that space and build there. He was unsure about whether the land would be deeded or leased to us. That is a discussion for their board and attorney. We will also contact our attorney with questions regarding ownership verses leasing of any property.

Board discussion followed with the decision to move our regularly scheduled May meeting from Wednesday, May 20 to **Thursday, May 14 at 5:15 p.m.** and follow that at 6:00-7:00 with an informational meeting open to the public. Trustee Dudas will prepare a presentation of the 4 possible locations for the library and the pros and cons of each. Public comments will be allowed but limited to 1 minute per person. Matt will see that this change is posted on our website. We will also need to post on the Township door and ensure that the large room is available for us.

REPORTS

Maintenance Report: Matt reported that there has been flooding in the basement due to heavy rain coming in around the window near the front entrance. He also reported that due to wood rot, the library's sign near the corner of Third and Park Streets has fallen. He will move it up to the building and Trustee Overkamp will ask the Village if someone there can repair it. So far there have not been any septic issues. Trustee Dudas will make some calls to determine who we use for pumping and when this service should be completed.

Library Report: The Director presented another glowing report of ever increasing numbers. He attended a conference in Georgia and will have a full report on that and the upcoming conference in Minneapolis at our April meeting. He has already received the grant of \$1,600.00 to cover the cost of the Georgia conference.

The director informed us that he has also received a grant of \$16,000.00 that he will use to rent space at the Lakes Mall where we can hold Line Dancing, Yoga, the Art Gala, and any other

events that might require extra space. These events have outgrown the current amount of space in our basement. He will be doing another walk-through at the mall in the coming week or so and will have 2 or three board members come along to view the space. He is hoping to hold a Grand Opening Party on May 2nd.

The Director is also working with Senators Peters and Slotkin to apply for a \$2,000,000.00 grant which could be applied to a new building. In the past, libraries have received partial amounts as high as \$500,000.00.

Secretary's Report: A motion was made by Riekse and supported by Walstra to approve the February minutes. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: A review of financial information was presented by Trustee Dudas. A motion was made by Trustee Riekse, supported by Trustee Woodward to approve payment of bills totaling \$12,085.77. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

OLD BUSINESS

Discuss Land Meeting Progress: Pros and cons of the four potential properties were reviewed to be used in the upcoming presentation. We will also create postcards to be handed out at the Old Fashioned Days parade with that information as well as information about our upcoming meeting.

Maintenance Position Status: Matt has the name of a potential candidate and will reach out to him this week. In the meantime Trustee Overkamp has been helping out.

Public Library Conference Attendance (outcome/financial situation) Matt attended this meeting. We did receive the MCAA grant necessary to cover those costs. Motion by Overkamp, supported by Woodward to reimburse him for those expenses.

Contact List: Trustee Woodward passed out copies of the updated contact list. A couple mistakes were discovered, so she will make those corrections and pass them out at the next meeting.

Facebook Administration Changes: We have not heard from Rose Dillon yet. Trustee Dudas will reach out again to see if we can get the necessary changes made.

Insurance payment: Motion by Woodward, supported by Dudas to renew the liability insurance for the Board and Director. Motion passed unanimously by rollcall vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Budget : The new budget was presented with necessary increases. Motion by Riekse and supported by Walstra to approve the 2026-2027 budget as presented. Motion approved by rollcall vote.

Part of the new budget included an increase in wages for staff. After discussion and explanation a motion was made by Woodward and supported by Overkamp to increase the

hourly budget of all staff members by \$1.00 per hour. Any new employees will be brought in at \$15.00 per hour. Motion passed unanimously by rollcall vote.

Credit Card Policy: Trustee Dudas explained the difficulty she had trying to increase the credit card limit for the Director to attend his recent conference. It was necessary to complete an updated Credit Card Policy in order to make this possible in the future. Motion by Trustee Anderson and supported by Trustee Folkmier to approve the new policy as presented. Motion passed unanimously by rollcall vote.

Lawyer Questions/Contact/Retainer fee: Matt provided Trustee Dudas with the name of an attorney who specializes in assisting libraries. The cost is \$200/hour. The board prepared a short list of questions that need to be answered as we move forward in our decision making for a new library. Trustee Dudas will make contact.

New Position at Library – Social Media Focus: The Director explained the need for an employee with a social media background. The finance committee considered this as they prepared the new budget and included it in their totals. A motion was made by Woodward and supported by Dudas to hire a new library assistant with social media experience for 10-15 hours per week at \$15/hour. Motion passed unanimously by rollcall vote.

Open Meeting Act Changes: Trustee Dudas noted items in the “Open Meeting Act.” Primarily the board is not able to make any decisions via email. Any discussions within the board that take place via email must be presented during our regular meetings.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: During the presentation by Township Supervisor Dunham, Karla Brown indicated that when a new or remodeled library is completed she would like to personally provide landscaping or some type of garden.

Motion by Woodward, seconded by Overkamp to adjourn. Meeting was adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Ruth Woodward