

Fruitport District Library Board of Directors

Public Informational Meeting

Thursday, May 14, 2026

The meeting began at 6:05 p.m. with a power point presentation by Board President, Anna Dudas. This presentation highlighted the state of our current library; the reasons why we believe a new library is needed; the items that we believe would be needed in this new facility; and four possible locations:

- The current location at Pomona Park
- Property owned by the township on Quarterline Rd. between Pontaluna and Mt. Garfield Rd.
- Property for sale on Mr. Garfield Rd., just south of the Lakes Mall
- Property for sale on Farr Rd. in the vicinity of Fruitport Chiropractic

Following the presentation there was an opportunity for public questions and comments.

Kathleen Johnson (7231 S. Brooks Rd. Fruitport) Requested information about the cost of the properties that would need to be purchased. Asked about Sewer/Septic Systems involved. Wondered if we would consider a millage.

[Farr Rd. = \$100,000 Mt. Garfield Rd. = negotiable/\$100-300,000]

[Septic in Village or on Farr Rd. Sewer available on Quarterline and Mt. Garfield]

[Millage renewal is due in 2028. We would prefer not to ask for any increase, although a bond is possible]

Cameron Holtrop (3834 Michael St.) Asked that the photos be made available in the survey.

Karen DuPont (2434 Vig Dr.) Reiterated her concern that we were ignoring the previous survey and not using that to make our decision. Wonders why we continue to do more research. Believes we should look at different concepts for building at the Pomona Park location. Wants to know if the results of this survey

will be released to the public and how to see the results of the previous survey. Also concerned that her comments at a previous meeting were not posted.

[All minutes are posted as soon after the meeting as possible, but these minutes are not official until approved at the next meeting. If a month was not posted, it was simply an oversight which we are happy to correct and add to our website.]

Mary Sorensen (5890 Pontaluna Rd.) Asked if we had a relationship with the Community Foundation and suggested that create a foundation to assist with fund raising.

Bill Orsel (191 8th Ave.) Asked if the 35 parking spaces is in addition to the current spaces at the park.

[Yes. There is a formula used by the architects to determine the number of spaces needed given the projected use of the facility. 35 is a bare minimum.]

Veronica Dare (191 S. 8th Ave.) If we stay in the current location, can we ask the Village if they would be willing to contribute to the building? Also is there a tax credit for donations?

[Our board is made up of four representatives from the Township and 3 from the Village. Funding is likewise divided in that manner. Whether they would provide any additional funds would be a question for them.]

Donna Esch (3333 Sunset Dr.) Concerned about the loss of green space if we remain/expand in Pomona Park.

Karla Brown (Pontaluna Rd) Explained that she worked at the Fruitport Library for 34 years and will always root for the library. Suggested that perhaps the current building could become a “satellite” for other programming after a new building is completed elsewhere. Also said all are welcome to become members of The Friends of the Fruitport District Library and be involved in a variety of ways to benefit the library.

Joanie Olavson (5850 Trainer Rd.) Would like to see the library remain at its current location with access to the park and all the activities available there. She believes it is most accessible with lots of people actually walking there. In response to a comment that many from the Cloverville area prefer to go to the Norton Shores branch, she believes it’s due to the size and the amount of materials available, not the distance.

Holly Heil (7080 Leisure Ln.) Likes the Village location because there's lots to do for kids and families.

Other Comments: (Apologies to anyone who is not named here or whose name is misspelled. We did our best to get to everyone.)

*This is an emotional issue for many.

*We need a community center.

*We need to remain in the heart of our community.

*The area surrounding Pomona Park seems safer and more visible, rather than the other isolated locations.

*Believes that high water table would be a definite concern at the Farr Rd. location.

*Questions regarding cost of new library [\$4-6 million?]