

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the
Alpena County George N. Fletcher Public Library
Board of Trustees**

Call to Order: A meeting of the Alpena County Library Board of Trustees was called to order on Wednesday, June 17, 2026, at 4:02 pm by President Dustin Budd.

Present:

Board of Trustees: Dustin Budd, Julie Byrnes, Jennifer Graham, Traci Collins

Staff: Christina Markowski, Nancy Mousseau, Carmen Grubaugh

Excused: Joe Fulkerson

Approval of Agenda: It was moved by Collins with support from Byrnes to accept the agenda. The motion passed.

Review and Approval of May 20, 2026 Meeting Minutes: It was moved by Graham with support from Byrnes to accept the minutes from the May 20, 2026 meeting. The motion passed.

Financial Reports: The financial reports were reviewed by Markowski.

Approval of Bills: It was moved by Collins and supported by Byrnes that the bills as presented be approved. The motion passed.

Leadership Team Reports: The written reports were reviewed by Markowski.

Friends of the Library Report: Markowski stated the Friends held an open house event on June 16, 2026 from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm and made a profit of \$50. She noted the library was accepting donations for the annual book sale in August.

Public Comment: Sarah Fritz, Alpena, stated teachers who live outside of Alpena county but work at Alpena Public Schools, Alpena private schools, and Alpena Community College should not have to pay the \$28 annual out of district fee for library cards. She noted the fee created unnecessary barriers to teaching resources that affect local students and that rescinding the fee would show the County supported the Alpena Public Schools Strategic Plan.

Nonnie Muller, Alpena, thanked the board for reviewing and updating procedures and policies. She shared she submitted the Reconsideration of Library Material form four times. Muller noted the library's response time of up to 90 days was lengthy and she invested a lot of effort only for the books to remain in the same spot on the shelf. She stated several documents she received which endorsed the books may not reflect the values of the Alpena community because they came from outside sources.

Michelle Greko, Alpena, congratulated Markowski, the Friends, and anyone else involved in the grant that allowed the library to purchase new chairs and a stage. She thanked the Friends for paying for Kanopy and she thanked Mousseau for her hard work updating the library's website. Grecko noted the updated website was easy to use and the board meeting recordings were beneficial, but stressed the importance of making the board packet available to the public before board meetings. She stated the Director and the Assistant Director should be deferred to when it came to the selection as well as the location of library materials in regards to the Reconsideration Policy.

Joann [No Last Name Given], Alpena, stated the proposed Reconsideration Policy was better than the previous policy because it was easier for patrons to use, there were definitive timelines, and patrons could speak directly to the Director or to the board.

Old Business:

A. Strategic Planning Update: Markowski shared Strategic Plan Goal #4 Collaboration. The board discussed it and provided suggestions including noting whether a new collaboration was made within the last year.

Markowski planned for the board to vote on the Strategic Plan in its entirety at the July 15, 2026 board meeting and if the board adopted the Strategic Plan it would go into effect for the fiscal year from July 2026 to July 2027.

Markowski thanked Jessica Luther and clarified Luther did most of the grant writing in response to Greko's earlier comment.

B. Reconsideration Policy: This item was tabled to allow time to rewrite revisions to the Reconsideration Policy based on the board's discussion and recommendations.

Committee Reports: There were no committee reports.

New Business:

A. Roofing Bids: It was moved by Collins with support from Graham to accept the TRC Roofing bid of \$95,351 to replace the roof.

Roll Call Vote:

Collins: Aye

Graham: Aye

Byrnes: Aye

Budd: Aye

The motion passed.

Budd wished to clarify what behavior was and was not acceptable based on concerns raised during public comments at the May 20, 2026 board meeting. He stated if a disruption occurred while a speaker was speaking the board president had the

responsibility to interject to maintain order and clapping was permitted between speakers as long as the meeting was able to continue in a timely manner.

Budd noted the second public comment was created so public opinion could be heard but if the second public comment interfered with the meeting finishing in a timely manner the board had the option to only have one public comment.

B. Director Evaluation Discussion: Collins sent out an updated director evaluation form which board members needed to submit by June 22, 2026. She planned to compile all the board's scores and comments into one evaluation. Collins noted a special meeting would be held July 1, 2026 at 4:00 pm and the board decided to make a recording of the special meeting but not use Zoom.

Collins shared there would be a closed session per Markowski's request followed by the meeting being opened to the public to discuss Markowski's potential raise in salary due to the rest of library staff receiving raises in January 2026 whereas Markowski due to the stipulation of a director evaluation needing to take place one year after she was hired in June 2025 did not receive a raise.

C. Email(s) for Board: The board decided emails for the board from the public be sent to Contact Us on the library's webpage.

Public Comment: Mary Bray, Alpena, questioned what the definition was for minors and she suggested the law from 1917 regarding the protection of minors be updated. She stated the books being brought forward as questionable were only from the children or young adult sections and the final decision for the Reconsideration Policy should be made by someone with library training such as the Director or Assistant Director. Bray recommended the board read every book undergoing the reconsideration procedure.

Michael Kramer, Alpena, thanked the board for a wonderful discussion and for taking responsibility for keeping smut away from children as there was nothing to be done for adults. He urged the library to buy better microphones for the board and Markowski before the next board meeting.

D. Board Comment: Collins clarified the 1917 law was for the establishment of libraries in Michigan and the laws the board referenced for the protection of minors during the Reconsideration Policy board discussion were from 1978. She noted the board had no authority to make updates to the 1978 laws and any updates would require a legislative process through the state. Collins expressed, on a personal level, she would never ban a book from the library and supported a person's right to choose what to read. She stated she would not be able to read all books undergoing the reconsideration procedure because some might negatively impact her mental health but she would read every book she was able to and do research.

Byrnes noted the Library Card Policy under the heading Get a Library Card did not match the updated Library Card Policy under the heading Policies on the library's website. She referenced *Acosta v. City of Costa Mesa* (9th Cir. 2013) from the Georgetown Law website to present a board meeting as a limited public forum whereas the board enforcing its rules against what it defined as disorderly conduct was not a violation of Freedom of Speech.

Budd thanked his fellow board members for researching the law and for trying to run the library in accordance with the law. He clarified the definition of minors to be 17 years of age or younger. Budd noted no one on the board desired to designate what adults could or could not read as it would create legal issues for the library.

Adjournment: It was moved by Collins with support from Graham to adjourn the meeting. Budd declared the meeting adjourned at 6:13 pm. The next meeting will be Wednesday, July 15, 2026 at 4:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Traci Collins

Secretary

Carmen Grubaugh

Recording Secretary