

**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, February 25, 2026, at 4:01 pm by President Dustin Budd.

**Present:**

Board of Trustees: Dustin Budd, Julie Byrnes, Traci Collins, Jennifer Graham, Joe Fulkerson  
Staff: Christina Markowski, Nancy Mousseau, Carmen Grubaugh

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

**Review and Approval of January 21, 2026 Meeting Minutes:** It was moved by Byrnes with support from Graham to accept the minutes from the January 21, 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 Graham that the bills as presented be approved. The motion passed.

**Leadership Team Reports:** Markowski shared that switching over to the new cellular fire alarm system was beneficial and she was no longer receiving error messages or dealing with beeping. She presented the board with maintenance costs that should be considered in the near future including a roof replacement, boiler replacements, and HVAC system replacement on the Currier side of the building.

Budd recommended getting updated quotes and Graham recommended getting a quote of what the price difference would be to replace all the boilers at once versus what it would be to replace each boiler as necessary. Markowski noted Matthew Kinzey's recommendation was to replace each boiler as necessary.

Markowski suggested the non-endowed community fund be used to cover the purchase of the Currier building in its entirety. She provided departmental updates about an APS Reading Intervention collaboration, Librarian IV Certification for two staff members, five new READ tutors, and Special Collections' Fletcher House and Golling guest registry.

**Friends of the Library Report:** Markowski stated the Friends were looking for new members and that new member application forms were on the Friends bookshelf on the first floor.

**Public Comment:** There were no public comments.

**Old Business:**

**A. Strategic Planning Discussion:** Markowski shared the Strategic Plan was for two years and would be reevaluated after the first year. She worked with Brian Mortimore who suggested breaking the Strategic Plan down into goals with timelines and she presented Goal #1.

**(Fulkerson entered at 4:25 pm.)**

The board discussed whether or not the word “equitable” should be used in the Strategic Plan’s Mission.

Markowski planned to present Goal #2 at the April 15, 2026 board meeting.

**B. Currier Building Quote:** It was moved by Graham with support from Byrnes to accept Dave Murphy Builders LLC quote for \$39, 919.46 and to have Markowski discuss with Dr. Robert Currier if his business would cover a portion of the repair costs to fix the siding on the Currier building. The motion passed.

It was moved by Graham with support from Byrnes to authorize Markowski to pay Dave Murphy LLC the deposit and to pay the library’s portion of the repair costs using a Nicolet Certificate of Deposit (CD) once the CD rolled over.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Budd: Yes  
Byrnes: Yes  
Collins: Yes  
Graham: Yes  
Fulkerson: Yes

The motion passed.

**Committee Reports:** Budd, on behalf of the Personnel Committee, stated they met on February 24, 2026 and discussed updates to the Meeting Room Policy as well as the Library Card Policy.

**New Business:**

**A. Board Officer Appointments:** It was moved by Collins with support from Byrnes to maintain the previously designated officer positions. The motion passed unanimously.

**President:** Dustin Budd  
**Vice President:** Jennifer Graham  
**Treasurer:** Julie Byrnes  
**Secretary:** Traci Collins

**Roll Call Vote:**

Budd: Yes  
Byrnes: Yes  
Collins: Yes  
Graham: Yes  
Fulkerson: Yes

The slate of officers for 2026 was approved.

**B. Meeting Room Policy:** This item was tabled until the March 18, 2026 meeting to allow time to rewrite revisions to the Meeting Room Policy based on the board’s recommendations.

**C. Privacy Policy Update:** It was moved by Byrnes with support from Fulkerson to adopt the updated Privacy Policy. The motion passed.

**Public Comment:** Dianne O'Connor, Alpena, stated "equal" and "equitable" were two distinctly different words. She suggested "just" as a possible substitution, but noted that "equitable" was appropriate and better in its proposed context for the Strategic Plan. O'Connor commented on Budd's neutrality and recommended Markowski be deferred to regarding the usage of "equitable."

Michael Kramer, Alpena, commented that "equitable" was controversial and he suggested the word choice for the Strategic Plan be more neutral. He noted the volume of Budd and Collins speaking voices was good, but recommended increasing the volume on the board's microphones.

Nonie Muller, Alpena, suggested eliminating "equitable" as an adjective in the Strategic Plan and using the simplicity of "access" by itself to describe library staff guiding patrons towards resources or requested information.

**Adjournment:** It was moved by Fulkerson with support from Graham to adjourn the meeting. Budd declared the meeting adjourned at 5:18 pm. The next meeting will be Wednesday, March 18, 2026 at 4:00 pm.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Traci Collins**

**Secretary**

**Carmen Grubaugh**

**Recording Secretary**