

**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, January 21, 2026, at 4:00 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 December 17, 2025 Meeting Minutes: It was moved by Graham with support from Byrnes to accept the minutes from the December 17, 2025 meeting and to accept the name correction from Lehto to Mousseau for the minutes of the November 19, 2025 meeting. The motion passed.

Financial Reports: The financial reports were reviewed by Markowski. Graham questioned why line item 701.000 Salaries Per Diem of the Budget vs. Factual financial report was almost \$30,000 under budget and Markowski replied the difference was due to Beth DeCaire's retirement in 2025.

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 she's working on finalizing the programs for the year and that Omega completed its electrical work on the third floor. She stated the fire alarm system was being switched from phone lines to cellular. She noted the cost for switching the fire alarm system was within budget and would not require a contract. Markowski thanked James DeVault for taking on more outreach programs and cataloguing responsibilities. She also thanked Matthew Kinzey for keeping the sidewalks clear and stated Matthew Kinzey ordered replacement parts because the snowblower was broken.

Friends of the Library Report: There was no Friends of the Library report.

Public Comment: There were no public comments.

Old Business:

A. Strategic Planning Discussion: Markowski planned to meet with the Strategic Planning Committee on February 5, 2026. She sent Brian Mortimore the Strategic Planning notes and comments to review as well as thanked the board for their suggestions.

Committee Reports: Fulkerson, on behalf of the Facility Committee, stated he was planning to discuss with the Alpena Power Company paying a higher draw rate during the months the library uses the most electricity so the library will not be charged the higher rate for the year.

Markowski noted the library received close to a \$3,000 rebate from Omega.

Byrnes, on behalf of the Personnel Committee, outlined revisions to the Meeting Room Policy. The board discussed extensive changes to the revisions that needed to be addressed before the updated Meeting Room Policy could be adopted.

Budd suggested the board wait a month before adopting policies as long as the policies were not time-critical to give the public the opportunity to make changes. Byrnes recommended changes to the policy be recorded in the meeting minutes.

New Business:

A. Cook Endowment Request: Markowski presented a resolution requesting the Cook Endowment Fund cover the \$3,020.53 Special Collections would need to pay for the Alpena News 2023 microfilming expenses. It was moved by Collins with support from Byrnes. The motion passed.

B. CD's at Nicolet Bank: It was moved by Collins with support from Fulkerson to create a standing motion authorizing Markowski to renew the two certificate of deposits (CD's) at Nicolet Bank every 3 months unless the board determined otherwise. The motion passed.

C. Consultation with Brian Mortimore: It was moved by Collins with support from Byrnes to approve Markowski consulting with Brian Mortimore for the Strategic Planning as necessary and for the board to work with Brian Mortimore on the Director Evaluation at \$200 an hour not to exceed \$10,000. The motion passed.

D. Streamline Website: Markowski presented a resolution requesting Streamline be used to make the library's website Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant at a locked-in rate of \$250 per month with liability coverage up to \$25,000 whereas the library website's upkeep will remain the responsibility of Mousseau. It was moved by Byrnes with support from Fulkerson. The motion passed.

E. Meeting Room Policy: This item was tabled until the February 18, 2026 meeting and will be placed on next month's agenda to allow time to rewrite revisions to the Meeting Room Policy based on the board's recommendations.

F. Public Comment Policy Update: It was moved by Collins with support from Byrnes to adopt the updated Public Comment Policy. The motion passed.

G. Nancy Webpage Tutorial: Mousseau presented on where to find the board packet and the meeting minutes on the library's webpage. She stated that only the board packet would be accessible for the current year whereas the meeting minutes would be accessible for the current year and the previous years. She noted at the very bottom of the library's webpage under Services the library's policies were accessible as PDFs.

H. Board Comment: Collins thanked the board for their input on the wording for the Meeting Room Policy.

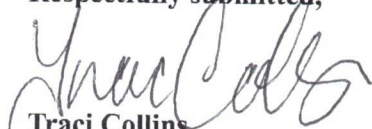
Byrnes questioned how the investments being held at the Community Foundation for Northeast Michigan were to be used. Markowski replied the investments may be used as an emergency operation fund or held in reserve with the intent to purchase the Currier building whenever it becomes available for sale in the future. Byrnes suggested getting an estimate for the cost of the Currier building and Graham suggested reviewing the library's contract regarding the sale of the Currier building. Budd recommended including building maintenance projects as part of the Strategic Plan.

Fulkerson suggested more promotion for the library's GED program.

Public Comment: Joann Pinkerton, Alpena, appreciated Budd's suggestion for the board to wait a month before adopting policies as long as the policies were not time-critical because she stated it would allow the community to review and to make comments before the board voted on the changes.

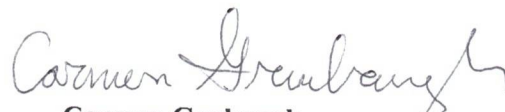
Adjournment: It was moved by Graham with support from Byrnes to adjourn the meeting. Budd declared the meeting adjourned at 5:28 pm. The next meeting will be Wednesday, February 18, 2026 at 4:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Traci Collins

Secretary



Carmen Grubaugh

Carmen Grubaugh

Recording Secretary