

October 21, 2025
Joint Free Public Library
Of Morristown and Morris Township
Board of Trustees

The monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Joint Free Public Library of Morristown and Morris Township was called to order at 6:05pm.

Representing Morristown were: Nancy Bangiola, President; Patricia Ard, Secretary; and Lisa Price

Representing Morris Township were: Don Kiel, Vice President; Geoff Brooks, Treasurer; and George Quillan

Also present were: Deanna Quinones, alternate for Mayor Dougherty; Anne Piascik, alternate for Superintendent Mucci; Chad Leinaweaver, Director; and Mary Lynn Becza, Assistant Director

Pursuant to a resolution of the Board and to RS 10:4-10, "Open Public Meetings Act," the president announced that adequate notice of the meeting had been provided by posting notices of the meeting in the library, and providing same to the Clerks of Morristown and Morris Township as well as to the Morris County Daily Record and The Star Ledger, all more than forty-eight hours prior to the meeting.

Minutes

The September 16, 2025 monthly minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Brooks reported that collections spending was below the usual amount at this time of the fiscal year due to the early uncertainty over municipal funding.

The report was received.

Director's Report

The following are the major points presented by Mr. Leinaweaver:

*At the November, 2025 meeting, architect Bob Russell will have cost estimates for the three library renovations, with the bidding process planned for January of 2026.

*Both *Morristown Magazine* and a Morristown mailer have been good sites for listings of the library's programs.

*The History Center has a current exhibit on Children's and Young Adult authors. The Center owns a significant collection of books and illustrations from these literary genres.

*The staff has been using Canva to improve the visuals of our outreach materials.

*The Children's section librarians took photos from summer reading participants and used them creatively in a search and find hunt in the children's and young adult sections.

*Book vendor Baker & Taylor is out of business. However, the staff had already been finding alternative vendors as Baker & Taylor's timely responsiveness had lagged prior to its closure.

*The increase in MAIN library members to 43 has caused library staff to take a different approach to sorting the increased inter-library loans.

Building and Grounds Report

The following are the major points presented by Ms. Becza:

*Ms. Becza found an auto body shop in Newark to repair and prep the bookmobile for wrapping with its new logo. The body work and wrapping will take approximately three weeks.

*Tree trimmers have worked on the library's trees, and plans for the planting of a new maple tree continue.

Committees

*Budget- The first reading of the 2026 draft budget occurred. Mr. Brooks pointed out that the municipalities funding allowed for the personnel committee to move ahead with salary decisions. State funding for 2026 is currently uncertain.

Reasons for the substantial increase in health insurance costs were discussed, with health care costs amounting to approximately 40% of payroll for 2026. Mr. Brooks suggested a review of the library's current model for payment of employee health care costs and the board agreed. The benefits and drawbacks of participating in the state's health insurance plan were analyzed. For future years, research will be done on how the two municipalities and the other MAIN libraries pay for health insurance. Electrical costs also substantially increased, as they have statewide. The first reading of the budget was approved. The plan is to submit the budget to the two municipalities by December 1, 2025.

*Education Liaison – Ms. Piascik reported that the publicity done by the Book Festival staff and librarians in the district helped spur the hugely well attended Kidfest this year.

*Foundation- The committee voted to treat Foundation funds the same as the Foster funds, with a 5% payout v. just paying interest. Thus, reserve funding has increased by about \$50,000. At the next committee meeting on October 27 the 2026 grants from endowments will be approved.

*Mr. Brooks stated that a former classmate of his is making a generous \$50,000. gift to the library in honor of that classmate's father. The board expressed its appreciation.

*Nominations -N/R

*Insurance- The library is getting replacement cost for the February, 2025 sprinkler event from its insurer. The cost of carpeting is still being resolved.

*Personnel- See New Business, below.

*Facility and Grounds- The library is awaiting the planting of a maple tree on the front lawn.

*Branding and Marketing-The bookmobile wrapping project continues to move towards completion.

Old Business: N/R

New Business:

*Mr. Leinaweaver explained that since the bookmobile driver will now be a full-time position, this employee will also work on outreach programs and services. After the director's discussion of their backgrounds, the board approved at the director's recommendation the hiring of the following: Jess Hogan, Bookmobile Driver @ \$36,500, and Genevieve Savoie, PT Children's Library Assistant @ \$16.00/hr.

*Closure of the library on Friday, November 21, 2025 for staff education day was approved.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Ard, Secretary