

MASTICS-MORICHES-SHIRLEY COMMUNITY LIBRARY

MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 2, 2026 BOARD MEETING

Trustee Maiorana called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

CALL TO ORDER

Present were Trustees Maiorana, Gross, Ricciardi, Kimmerling and Furnari, Director Castro, Assistant Director D’Amato, Business Manager Nowak, and Secretary Stirber. Mark Grossman attended as a guest.

PRESENT

PERIOD OF PUBLIC EXPRESSION

Motion by Kimmerling, second by Furnari to accept the minutes of the December 15, 2025 meeting of the Board of Trustees. Carried 5-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Gross, second by Kimmerling, to approve the following Operating Fund Schedule of Claims dated January 26, 2026. Carried 5-0.

SCHEDULE OF CLAIMS

Motion by Furnari, second by Kimmerling, to approve the Operating Financial Report for December 2025. Carried 5-0.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Motion by Ricciardi, second by Gross, to approve the Capital Fund Financial Report for December 2025. Carried 5-0.

The Director reported that she has been working on the staff and patron survey forms being prepared in connection with preparing the library strategic plan. She expects the survey to go out soon and is looking forward to getting feedback from staff as well as the public. Ms. Castro was happy to report that the staff meeting held on January 30th was well attended. Close to 164 staff members attended. There was a presentation by EAP, and a brief update on other staff events being held throughout the upcoming year. She continued with her report informing the Board that Dutton Brewhouse has been selected to operate the café. She is working on the final details of the business contract, including updating the notice provision to require 120 days’ notice to terminate the contract. This will keep the café operational should they decide to leave. Dutton plans on doing cooking classes in person in the café and live streamed. These classes will mimic professional cooking classes. Ms. Castro is hoping for a February 22nd opening. Lastly, Ms. Castro reported she is working on the budget and preparing for the April 14th vote.

DIRECTOR

The Assistant Director informed the Board that she has been working on

ASSISTANT

preparing for the budget vote and finalizing the legal notices. The Trustee petitions will be available on February 3 and must be returned by March 16th. Absentee and early voting applications will be available March 14th. Ms. D’Amato mentioned that the next important date to be agreed on is the budget hearing date. The Assistant Director informed the Board that voter registration will be held in the library on April 7th.

**DIRECTOR
REPORT**

Mr. Nowak informed the Board that all W2’s and 1099’s were delivered to staff and independent contractors, and the 1096 has been filed with the IRS. The Business Manager then reported that certain part time staff salaries have been increased to \$17.00 to reflect the minimum wage increase effective January 1st. In addition, staff longevity payments were paid early in January. Mr. Nowak was happy to announce that we have received the IA System grant from the County in the approximate amount of \$166,000. In addition, he reported that we have begun receiving the 25-26 property tax remittances. The Business Manager reported that he spoke to the Assistant Director at SCLS on the outstanding grant, and worked to get them some information that they needed. Mr. Nowak also reported that tonight there is a motion presented to adopt a budget exceeding the State established Tax Cap of 2% increase for fiscal year 2026-2027. Lastly, Mr. Nowak spoke about discussing a change to the budget hearing date.

**BUSINESS
MANAGER**

Motion by Furnari, second by Gross, to approve the CS-150 report with the Director's recommended personnel changes. Carried 5-0.

**PERSONNEL
CHANGES**

Motion by Gross, second by Furnari, to approve the Board of Trustees, Director, Assistant Director, Department Heads and/or designated staff to attend the Computers in Libraries conference in Arlington, VA from March 17 – March 19, 2026 at a cost not to exceed \$3,550.00 per person. Carried 5-0.

**CONTINUING
EDUCATION**

Motion by Kimmerling, second by Ricciardi, to approve the annual renewal subscription for the Library’s text a librarian application with Mosio, Inc. at a cost of \$1,999.00. Carried 5-0.

**CONTRACTS/
RENEWALS**

Motion by Ricciardi, second by Furnari, to approve the annual renewal subscription for the Library’s Freegal music download & streaming service with Library Ideas, LLC at a cost of \$11,638.00. Carried 5-0.

Motion by Furnari, second by Gross, to approve the following resolution,

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Mastics-Moriches-Shirley Community Library elects to adopt a budget exceeding the State established Tax Cap 2% increase for the 2026-27 fiscal year by a 60%

**PROPERTY
TAX
CAP/FYE 2027**

majority vote of the sitting Trustees.

Carried 5-0.

Motion by Furnari, second by Kimmerling, to approve the Board of Trustees, Director, Assistant Director, Department Heads and/or designated staff to attend the Sons & Daughters of Italy in America Dr. Calabro Lodge annual scholarship gala dinner honoring Senator Dean Murray and Assemblyman Joe DeStefano on March 14, 2026 at the Sunset Harbour at a DINNER ONLY cost of \$125.00 per person and to purchase a journal ad in the amount of \$175.00. Carried 5-0.

**COMMUNITY
EVENT**

Motion by Kimmerling, second by Gross, to move into Executive Session at 7:35 pm to discuss a contractual issue, as well as a personnel issue related to two individuals. Carried 5-0.

**EXECUTIVE
SESSION**

Motion by Furnari, second by Kimmerling, to leave Executive Session at 8:37 pm. Carried 5-0.

Motion by Ricciardi, second by Gross, to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 pm. Carried 5-0.

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted by,

Madeline Stirber
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