

**MESSENGER PUBLIC LIBRARY OF NORTH AURORA
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES
April 9, 2026**

Call to Order: President Saperston called the meeting of the Messenger Public Library of North Aurora Board of Trustees to order at 7:02 pm.

Roll Call: President Saperston, Vice President Cranford, Secretary Carlson, Trustee Bailey, Trustee McCoy, and Trustee Bogle. (Treasurer Berley arrived after roll call was taken)

Absent: None

Also attending: Director Shannon Halikias and Administrator of Business and HR Judy Jarvis.

Staff attending: Department Head Mary Malach

Public attending: James Rachlin of Meristem Advisors (via Zoom)

Additions or changes to Agenda: President Saperston moved New Business Agenda B: James Rachlin of Meristem Advisors-Discussion to beginning of meeting.

Presentations: James Rachlin of Meristem Advisors

James Rachlin of Meristem Advisors presented board members with analysis of the library's financial state in consideration of the Master Plan and the ability to fund building adaptations as proposed by Wight and Company.

The board was presented with documents that included income and expense breakdown and fund balance analysis from 2022 through 2025.

Mr. Rachlin provided detailed analysis and his opinion in regard to the expense categories of personnel, administration, equipment, library materials, and capital renewal.

Mr. Raclin indicated the following per his review:

- Income is stable, fund balances strong.
- Tax caps and planning for future projects and the need for possible bond referendum for larger projects or building renovations.
- Route 31 TIF expiration to aid in future capital improvement projects.
- Fund balance and special reserve audit reporting suggestions.

Mr. Rachlin indicated that the library is in a financially sustainable position with healthy fund balances that allow for consideration of projects for immediate needs and repairs, but for large scale beneficial renovations suggested by Wight and Company, a bond referendum would most

likely be needed. The Library can maintain day to day repairs and minor improvements, but cannot support larger building renovations without additional revenue options.

Director Halikias indicated that it was important for the board to consider the calculations and information provided by Mr. Rachlin for the Master Plan documents considered. Director Halikias reminded board members that there was no official time determined to move forward with any suggested renovations by Wight and Company as of today's meeting.

Mr. Rachlin will be attending the May board meeting for further discussion and exploration of options.

Director Halikias welcomed any questions or comments by board members.

There were no additional questions placed before Director Halikias or Mr. Rachlin at this time.

Board members thanked Mr. Rachlin for his presentation and information.

Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes: March 12, 2026 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

Trustee Bogle motioned to approve March 12, 2026; Regular Board meeting minutes as presented. Seconded by Trustee Bailey. All in favor. Motion carried.

Public Comments: None

Communications: None

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Berley reported the following for the month of March.

A total net income reported in March of \$15,426.82.

Expenses in the amount of \$213,167.85 were disbursed. Current assets total \$3,132,845.25.

Check numbers 18852-18897 and Electronic Funds Transfers in the amount of \$213,253.85.

were written in March.

Trustee Bogle motioned to approve the Treasurer's report for March and file for audit. Seconded by Trustee McCoy. All in favor. Motion carried.

Library Directors Report:

Director Halikias provided a brief update for the month of March. The following were mentioned:

- Budget preparation.
- Vendor meetings.
- Grant writing for new security cameras.
- New tables and chairs for staff break room.
- New computers for staff
- End of fiscal year approaching
- Reminder of C.O.W. Budget Planning Meeting on April 27th at 6:30 pm for Trustees

Department Head Reports

Judy Jarvis, Administrator of Business and HR, indicated that she had nothing new to add to her report at this time.

Mary Malach, Head of Circulation Services, indicated she had nothing new to add to her report at this time.

Director Halikias reminded Trustees of the upcoming LACONI Trustee Banquet on April 17th.

Old Business

- Trustee Bylaws-Discussion

Director Halikias indicated that this was the second review of documents as presented to the board for feedback and discussion. A final version will be presented in May for approval.

Director Halikias indicated that the information presented provided a clearer and more concise model also reviewed by library attorney for input and expertise.

A discussion by the board members took place, and all were pleased with the progress made and with the information presented.

New Business

- Public Survey for Strategic Plan-Discussion

Board members were encouraged to suggest changes for the next survey to be conducted in the summer.

Director Halikias reminded board members that there will be a QR code for the survey. It was suggested that board members direct their suggestions or input to her prior to May.

- Jamie Rachlin of Meristem Advisors- Discussion

{The Board heard the presentation by Mr. Rachlin at the beginning of the meeting}

Mr. Rachlin provided expertise and analysis of the library's financial state in consideration of the Master Plan and the ability to fund building adaptations.

Trustee Comments:

Saperston: Informed board members that former long term library trustee and President, Janet Leach, passed away in December 2025. Director Halikias will provide tribute in upcoming Newsletter.

Cranford: Proud to be a library trustee after all that was discussed, all the information received, and progress made at tonight's meeting.

Bogle: Shared with board members that a free Yoga program would be hosted by her partner on April 22nd at the library.

Adjournment of Regular Meeting

Treasurer Berley motioned to adjourn the regular board meeting at 8:53 pm. Seconded by Trustee Bailey. All in favor. Motion carried.