



**Goshen Public Library and Historical Society Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting of March 9, 2026**

- I. Call to order
A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Goshen Public Library and Historical Society (GPLHS) was called to order by President Emily Collado at 7:08 PM on March 9, 2026.
Attendance:
Board members present: Emily Collado, Tina Fortugno, Heather LaBruna, Julie Markey, Alison Newman, Michael Panzer (joined remotely via videoconferencing from Albany, NY, but did not vote on resolutions), and Lynn Tabbott. Also in attendance: Library Director Rose Chiocchi and Clerk of the Board Meghan Boroden.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Review and Approve Agenda
[Action item] RESOLVED that the Board approve the Agenda as presented.
Motion: Trustee Markey. Seconded by: Trustee Tabbott. (Approved 6-0-0)
- IV. Privilege of the floor – None.
- V. Approval of the Minutes.
[Action item] RESOLVED that the Board approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting on February 9, 2026 as presented.
Motion: Trustee Fortugno. Seconded by: Trustee LaBruna. (Approved 6-0-0)
- VI. Personnel - None
- VII. Finances
The Board examined a new format for Profit & Loss review for the February 2026 Financial Report. Electric utility expenses were again sharply higher than anticipated, likely due to a particularly cold winter.
[Action item] RESOLVED that the Board approve the February 2026 Financial Report.
Motion: Trustee Markey. Seconded by: Trustee Newman. (Approved 6-0-0)
- VIII. Director's Report – In her report, Director Chiocchi reported that circulation continues to grow. Notably, e-content circulation is growing at a fast pace. Chiocchi explained to trustees why e-content is more expensive than physical books and the limited platforms available for libraries to utilize.

Inclement weather continued to impact library hours during the month of February. A power outage resulted in a minor elevator repair. The door counter that tracks patron visits has been repaired. This statistic is important for submission of the Annual State Report, which is coming up soon. The Department of Library Development requested more information for the generator grant reimbursement, which must be closed by June 2026.

Chiocchi attended an annual Civil Service workshop with Erica Gati (Human Resources). Chiocchi also attended a webinar on ICE interactions in library settings with the director of the Hennepin Library System, which includes Minneapolis. She also attended the monthly "Coffee with the Superintendent" hosted by the School District and connected with more community leaders.

Chiocchi and Trustee Tabbott, along with Stephen Hoefer from RCLS, met with School District representatives regarding the tax certiorari reimbursement requested by the District of the Library. More information was requested for the Library to review.

Reference desk employees have been praised by patrons for their work. Chiocchi noted the growing number of reference questions employees receive.

IX. Committee Reports

a. Standing Committees

i. Physical Resources Committee – Parking lot lines will need to be redone.

ii. Community Resources Committee – Trustee Newman will prepare a letter from the Board for the annual newsletter. Meet the Candidates will be held Monday, April 13 at 7 PM. The Board's Regular Meeting will immediately follow at 7:15 PM.

iii. Human Resources – None.

iv. Sunshine Committee – None.

b. Ad Hoc Committees

i. Historical Society Committee – Local History Journal remains under review. Release may coincide with Great American Weekend.

X. Reports from Partner Groups

a. Friends of the GPL&HS will host Cory Harris, a SUNY Orange professor who will be speaking about local mastodon discoveries. The event will be held Saturday, March 14th at 10 AM in the Pomares Community Room.

b. Junior Friends' community dance event was canceled due to inclement weather. The teens plan to reschedule the event for a future date.

XI. New Business

a. Director Chiocchi presented fiscal year 2026-2027 budget options to the Board.

The largest, unanticipated strain on the budget is a charge back by the School District of a portion of court-ordered tax refunds in tax certiorari proceedings over the past few years. This unprecedented request here in Goshen will cost the Library \$66,500 in the coming fiscal year. Chiocchi did not increase Library Materials/Services or Programming categories, though individual budget lines within those categories were adjusted based on patron circulation trends. For example, the e-content budget line was increased because of growing use of Library-provided apps. Budgets lines for video games, a popular resource, and Library of Things were added. Serials, audio books, and adult and teen books have decreased budgets. The Building-related budget lines will increase in the next fiscal year. Continued maintenance on the parking lot is planned to ensure the longevity of the lot. Under the Employee Benefits category, there is a new Longevity Pay budget line, resulting from the first collective bargaining agreement. Health insurance expenses, the costliest benefit, will increase. Payroll fees will increase due to contracting out of payroll processing. Professional services budget lines were adjusted. Postage is anticipated to increase. Continuing education expenses are budgeted to decrease because the annual ALA conference will be held too far for employees to reasonably attend.

[Action item] The Board approves a proposed tax levy of \$2,113,467 for Fiscal Year 2026-2027.

Motion: Trustee Tabbott. Seconded by: Trustee Markey. (Approved 6-0-0)

b. Tax Cap Override

[Action item] WHEREAS, the adoption of this FY2027 budget for the Goshen Public Library & Historical Society requires a tax cap levy increase that exceeds the tax cap imposed by state law as outlined in General Municipal Law Section 3-c adopted in 2011; and WHEREAS, General Municipal Law Section 3-c expressly permits the Library board to override the tax levy limit by a resolution approved by a vote of sixty percent of qualified board members; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Goshen Public Library & Historical Society voted and approved to exceed the tax levy limit for FY2027 by at least the sixty percent of the Board of Trustees as required by state law on March 9, 2026.

Motion: Trustee Fortugno. Seconded by: Trustee LaBruna. (Approved 6-0-0)

c. Pollinator Garden

Director Chiocchi shared with the Board a request from a community member to expand the pollinator garden. More information on the viability of this is needed.

d. Healthcare insurance

[Action item] RESOLVED that the Board approves the renewal of health insurance policies with Oxford Liberty (EPO).

Motion: Trustee Newman. Seconded by: Trustee Fortugno. (Approved 6-0-0)

e. Bookkeeping Services

[Action item] RESOLVED that the Board approves bookkeeping services to be provided by RW Schultz.

Motion: Trustee LaBruna. Seconded by: Trustee Newman. (Approved 6-0-0)

XII. Privilege of the Floor – Employee Harlene Kresse spoke about options for vision and dental care plans.

XIII. Executive Session

[Action item] RESOLVED that the Board enter Executive Session at 9:02 PM to discuss the advice of counsel.

Motion: Trustee Tabbott. Seconded by: Trustee Fortugno. (Approved 6-0-0)

No action was taken.

[Action item] RESOLVED that the Board exit Executive Session at 10:15 PM.

Motion: Trustee Fortugno. Seconded by: Trustee Newman. (Approved 6-0-0)

XIV. Advice of Counsel

[Action item] RESOLVED that the Board authorizes Director Chiocchi to seek the advice of a tax attorney.

Motion: Trustee Tabbott. Seconded by: Trustee Markey. (Approved 6-0-0)

XV. Report of Continuing Education Credits – Trustees continue to participate in classes to fulfill the continuing education credits required by NYS law.

XVI. Adjournment

[Action item] RESOLVED that the Board adjourn at 10:16 PM.

Motion: Trustee LaBruna. Seconded by: Trustee Fortugno. (Approved 6-0-0)

Next Regular Meeting: April 13, 2026 at 7:00 PM.

Submitted by: Meghan Boroden, Clerk of the Board