AURORA FREE LIBRARY
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
October 15, 2026

Facilitator: Dave Eckhardt, President AFL Board of Trustees
Trustees: Dennis Looney, Mary Jo May, Thea Miller (arrived at 5:35 pm), Lori Knopp.
Absent: Michelle Belot (excused) & Lars Peterson
Staff: Sandy Groth, Library Director

1. Call to Order: Dave called the meeting to order at 5:32 pm.
2. Consent Agenda Approval: Dave made a motion to approve the September 17th Meeting Minutes and the October 15th Meeting Agenda. Dennis seconded the motion. The motion was carried by a vote of 4-0-0 (Thea had not arrived yet).
3. Conflict of Interest: There were no conflicts of interest.
4. Treasurer's Report: Lori reported an operating balance of $31,157.25 in the checking account. We anticipate new deposits within the coming weeks from the Book Lovers' Ball and the 2026 tax levy. Three bank CDs will be up for renewal in November.
5. Director's Report: Sandy shared that summer reading included 45 programs with 1440 attendees. She included announcements of upcoming events including Ducktober, Tri-Cities Opera's Hansel and Gretel,9 to 5 Movie, Spooky Library on Halloween, Pottery Workshops, Chess Club and a Felting Workshop on Saturday, November 7th. Storytime continues on Wednesday mornings and Peachtown time change to 1 pm on Wednesdays. She will participate with Hazard in a Trunk or Treat at Emily Howland and she has been working on policies with Thea and Lori.
6. Committee Reports:

- Morgan Opera House- Lars was not present to report, but there was mention of two upcoming events including "There's No Place Like Home" with Michaela Groth and Friends on October 24 at 7:30 pm and Rethinking Thanksgiving with Perry Ground on Sunday November 15th.
- Book Lovers' Ball- The Book Lovers' Ball was a huge success! Approximately 180 attended, and Jo mentioned that we are waiting for the final figures of the profits as some payments are still outstanding. Several Trustees who attended were able to provide feedback and suggestions.
- Preservation- Dave mentioned that we have found a contractor to fix the gutters.
- Long Range Service Plan- Dennis shared that he continues to receive positive feedback through the community survey questionnaire and will convene a meeting of a select committee to summarize the survey findings and make recommendations to the Board for development of an updated Library Long Range Service Plan for 2026-2030.

7. Old Business: Sandy reminded Trustees to complete the Sexual Harassment Training Requirement as well as their two hours of Annual Trustee Training.
No other Old Business.
8. New Business: Dave, Sandy and Jo will attend the Annual FLLS meeting in Waverly.
There was a brief mention of the AFL Policies that are in development and review.
Sandy, Lori and Thea have been working on several of the financial policies.
The following Library policies were presented to the Board for approval:

- Rules of Behavior Policy (reviewed and updated)
- Confidentiality of Library Records Policy (reviewed)
- Open Meetings Policy (new)

A motion for approval of these policies was made by Thea, seconded by Lori, and was carried by a vote of 5-0-0.
The Aurora and Ledyard Historical Society will be creating a Time Capsule in the Spring and has asked for assistance as a collection spot from the Library.

Dave initiated a discussion about the need to approve a 2027 Tax-Cap Override Resolution. Dennis made a motion to approve the Resolution, and Lori seconded it.
Resolution:
Whereas, the adoption of the 2027 budget for the Aurora Free Library may require a tax 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 on October 15, 2026 the Board of Trustees of the Aurora Free Library voted and approved to exceed the tax levy limit for 2027 by at least the sixty percent of the Board of Trustees, as required by New York State law.

Motion by: Dennis Looney
Second by: Lori Knopp

Vote: __5__ In Favor
__0__ Opposed
__0__ Abstentions
__0__ Excused
__0__ Absent

Motion Carried
Date: October 15, 2026

Note: There are currently seven (7) members on the Library Board, and five (5) attended the October 15, 2026 meeting, who unanimously approved this resolution, which constitutes a 71% supermajority of Board Membership.

9. Adjourn Meeting: Dave made a motion to adjourn, and Dennis seconded it. The motion carried 5-0-0, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:33 pm.

Our next meeting will be on **Thursday, November 19th** at 5:30 pm.