DRAFT 10-22-26 Leelanau Township Library Board of Trustees Meeting
Present: Mark Morton, Mary Robertson, Jamie Scripps, Amanda Kruk, Dale Lersch
Absent: Rick Gans
Staff Present: Julie Alpers-Preneta, director
Friends and Public Present: Five residents present in person, four via Zoom

I. Mark called the meeting to order at 7:00
II. Jamie moved to approve the 9-21-26 meeting minutes, Dale seconded. Unanimous approval.
III. Public Comment:
    A. Resident Susan Ager stated support for the new Library plan at NPG, hopes the board will do another public meeting.
IV. Director's Report
    A. Julie presented the data from last month, noted great program attendance, updated that Erica has been weeding magazines. The NAA community tile mural project will have an installment in front of the desk. New Art in the Corner with Rachel Winslow.
V. Financial Report
    A. Discussion.
    B. Dale moved to accept the Financial Report, Mary seconded. Unanimous approval.
VI. Old Business
    A. None
VII. New Business
    A. Commercial Kitchen at the new library. Mark initiated the process of discussion and creation of new policy regarding potential rentals, private events, incubators, sign-ups. Discussion about using the space as a community resource , emphasizing not charging for not-for-profit events. Jamie has a link to a non-profit that does educational programs with kids including cooking lessons. Mark and Rick will be meeting with Michelle Hemeyer on 11/4 for a walkthrough to determine what would be sold with the building. Noted: Interlochen library could be a resource in creating policy as they have a kitchen.
    B. Audit - discussion of findings from Tobin & Co. Mary moved to accept the audit, Jamie seconded. Unanimous approval.
    C. Special Use Permit. Mark shared that in January of 2025, the board confirmed with then-Village Manager Jim Dyer that the Library would need to pursue a Special Use Permit if we were to purchase the NPG. In accordance with the confidentiality requested in the Option to Purchase Agreement, the Library did not pursue the SUP at the time due to the public nature of the application process. The SUP will be for Institutional Use, has a $500 fee to apply, we may need to provide a site plan, requires written owner authorization before proceeding with the application, it will go to the planning commission to review as part of a public hearing that requires mailing notices to all property operators within 300ft in addition to a publication in the Enterprise.
    D. Social Media. Discussion about how the board should engage or not engage with social media. The board would like to have information–including the essay Mark wrote for Doug Whitley's publication, new FAQs especially regarding the history of events leading up to the NPG plan–available on the Library website, discussion about Enterprise, Ticker. Discussion about a public forum meeting & date.
        1. Public Forum: Thursday, November 19 at 6pm directly preceding the 7pm board meeting. *Note, regular board meeting moved to 11/19 at 7pm
    E. Clean Energy Options. Jamie suggested a conversation with Dan Worth, clean energy specialist regarding mitigating ongoing operating costs with clean energy infrastructure.

There is grant funding available for renewable energy, battery storage to be pursued to defray capital expenditures.

F. Library Privacy Act of 1982. Julie shared that she has reached out to Michigan Library legal specialist, Claire Membiela, regarding the Library Privacy Act after an incident at the library in which a person was taking photos of patrons with the intent to post them online. Julie has told her staff that to her understanding, it was against the Act to take photos of patrons without permission, and she told this person the same that day. After looking it up to confirm, Julie now thinks she may have been incorrect. Board discussion about if the Library should have policy about photo-taking within the library, with special concerns being the photographing of children.

G. Fundraising, category added by Mary during the meeting and suggested to be an ongoing category under Old Business. Dale updated that Quinn Consulting Associates was hired as fundraising consultant and is working with the Fundraising Committee. Dale updated that we are nearly halfway to our fundraising goal. Amanda asked if Dale had clarified the monthly retainer vs. flat fee question from last month, Dale was able to clarify the plan. Discussion.

VIII. Public Comment:

A. Resident Janet Crane made her presence known.

B. Resident Kathy Wessel expressed shock at how few were in public attendance.

C. Resident Susan Ager, pleased a Public Forum date was settled, expressed concern over some community members' efforts at a breakaway new library plan.

IX. The meeting was adjourned at 8:01pm

Next Meeting: Thursday, November 19, 2026 Public Forum at 6pm, Board Meeting at 7pm

Notes recorded and respectively submitted by Amanda Kruk, secretary