

STARR LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

68 W. Market Street
Rhinebeck, NY 12572

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, February 26, 2026, 5:30 P.M.

Trustees Present: Jay Burgess, Erin Humbaugh, Mimi Joh-Carnella, Tom Mendl, Al Ragucci (via Zoom), Jim Ruderman, Laura Selicaro, Andrew Schulkind, and Director Jaclyn Savolainen. Stephen Frost attended the meeting on behalf of The Friends. Not in attendance were Heather Dubuque and Laura Charles.

1. Call to Order and Review of Agenda: Andrew, president of the board, called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.
2. Public Comment Period: There were no comments.
3. Secretary's Report: Jay noted that there were no comments on the draft minutes previously distributed to the trustees. A motion was made to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.
4. Treasurer's Report: Jim presented the report for January. Financial information for the month was advanced to the trustees. Jim reported that the financial results to date were showing more expenses than income. He noted that soon the library would receive monies from the tax levy and then the finances would be tracking the budget for the year. He updated the trustees on balances in the library's bank and investment accounts.
5. Director's Report: Jaclyn provided the report for January. The report was sent to the trustees prior to the meeting. Numerous upcoming programs were highlighted, including March 21 *Bilingual English & Spanish Storytime* and March 23 *Starr Tech Voyager: Intro to Google Docs*. Special mention was given to a May 5 event that will be hosted by the Dutchess County Library Association. The evening will include a tutorial about library finances intended for trustees.

Jaclyn reviewed statistics for January, noting that the trend lines are showing increases in borrowing of both physical and digital materials. She indicated that Starr is attracting visitors who are members of other area libraries, showing that people appreciate the offerings of our library and its friendly staff.

Jaclyn expressed gratitude for recent grants awarded to the library. The Thomas Thompson Trust has given \$48,000 for improving parking-lot accessibility and some HVAC upgrades. The NYS Legislature had allocated \$20,000 to enhance audio/visual equipment and other technology to serve library patrons. A discussion ensued among the trustees about the above topics and the director's report. All questions asked were appropriately answered.

6. Friends Report: Stephen reported that the Friends will host a book sale on March 27-28.
7. Claims and Warrants: Jim presented the items to the board. A motion was made to approve the claims and warrants. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.
8. Standing Committee Reports: Erin stated that the Fundraising Committee met to discuss goals and the feasibility of a capital campaign. Numerous items were identified as necessary initial efforts, most notably continued vigorous information gathering. Consideration is being given to retaining a campaign consultant. Trustees posed questions, which were discussed. Jaclyn will provide trustees with reports from surveys of needs expressed by patrons as well as a condition assessment of the library's infrastructure.

Al updated trustees about a meeting of the Building & Grounds Committee. He reported that even with recent grants, the library is a building showing its age. The committee is working on a five-year forecast of work likely to be needed to ensure the library appropriately serves patrons. The roof and plumbing are two areas of leading concern.

Jim said the Finance Committee plans to place some funds that are in low-interest accounts into a short-term CD to gain a better return. Some monies also will be put into a capital improvement fund. Jim said the Finance Committee recommended that the board vote to allow for a tax-cap override for the ballot proposition to increase taxes for 2027. A motion was made to approve the override. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. See appendix A.

9. Ad Hoc Committee Reports: Mimi cited a report provided earlier to the trustees and summarized that the Roger Phillips Concert Series was a success again in 2025.
10. Correspondence: Jaclyn indicated that the main correspondence was related to recent grants.
11. Old Business:
 - a. The revised 2026 budget was supplied previously to the trustees. A motion was made to approve the budget. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.
 - b. A discussion of the library's vision statement was postponed.

12. New Business

- a. Tax cap override recommendation. This item was discussed in the Finance Committee report.
- b. Jaclyn initiated a brief discussion about how board and staff goals could be tied to the in-progress 2026-30 long-range plan for the library. The topic will continue to be given consideration.
- c. Details were shared about a June visit by trustees of the Mid Hudson Library System as part of their effort to stay connected with association libraries.

13. Public Comments: There were no comments.

14. Executive Session: There was no executive session.

15. Adjournment: There being no other business to conduct, a motion was made to adjourn.
The motion was seconded and unanimously approved at 6:55 p.m.

Next Meeting Date: March 26, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.

APPENDIX A

Whereas, the adoption of the 2027 budget for the Starr 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 let it be:

Resolved, that the Board of Trustees of the Starr 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 state law on February 26, 2026.