

**Saugerties Public Library
Regular Board Meeting
Date: July 9, 2026**

Present: Trustees Paul Van Benschoten, Timothy Scott, Charlotte Herscher, Yosefa Karchmar, Valentina Kielland, Rebecca Lang, Kerry McQuaide, Ken Goldberg, Erin Poll, Alice Graves, Teresa Giordano

Staff: Director Jennifer Russell

Public Attendees: Bill Barr, Bronwyn Malone and June Meade

Meeting called to order at 6:00 PM by President Tim Scott

Public Comment:

Bronwyn Malone: lives in the Village of Saugerties. Program specialist for TV 23. She is learning about the tech, introducing herself around town, and seeing what people would be interested in. She may be filming events such as book readings. Please reach out if you have something to put out there. You can watch this on cable Channel 23 and there is a live webstream at saugertieslighthouse.tv Contact info is on the town website. lighthouse.tv@saugerties.ny.gov They will be filming the town meetings so there will be an archive.

Bill Barr: Battery storage. Those proposing to build it will have the floor for 20 min or so at the next town meeting. That is this Wednesday. The conservation advisory commission has delivered some white papers looking into the “why” of battery storage systems and the safety data that they could find. You can access this on the town website. The Cantines Field splash pad just received a grant from the state/ which takes care of most of the funding. Verizon is proposing a cell tower that will solve some of the dead zones in Barclay Heights. The climate smart task force is accessing the climate change vulnerability assessment with a questionnaire. He is not sure how that will be distributed to the public. The drinking water source protection program is being run by both the town and the village. It is a state DEC initiative.

Friends of Library: Ray Rebholz: Absent

Unfinished Business:

New Business:

1. Trustee Petitions available July 7: Paul is running again. We need another person. Talk it up and remember that they need 25 Saugerties residents' signatures. They need to be legible. There are two seats available.

2. Tax Cap vote:

Whereas, the adoption of the 2027 budget for the Saugerties Public 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 the Board of Trustees of the Saugerties Public 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 the state law on July 9, 2026.

Motion: A motion has been made by Tim and seconded by Charlotte. All in favor. The motion to override the tap levy has been adopted.

3. 2027 DRAFT Budget Review: The big question is what to do with a surplus of \$3,368.32. Could be used to bring the increase of the property tax down to below 5%. We keep falling short of our contribution to digital materials. Maybe we can use that money for the digital books. We do have Carnegie donation money to put towards that. Maybe for this year, if we have the choice, we should consider trying to lower the tax appropriation.

We will be making a hand out with the information about the proposed 2027 information. It goes on the website, on the circulation desk, and to the public.

The areas we have discussed adding \$3,368.32 to are salaries, the fund balance, digital materials, and to reduce the tax levy.

Motion: Tim motions to add the \$3,368.32 to digital materials. Charlotte seconds. All in favor.

Motion: Tim makes a motion to adopt the 2027 budget as amended. Charlotte seconds. All in favor.

4. Direct Access Plan (MHLS): Where do people get their books and how do they contribute? Doesn't really affect us because we are clearly the town of Saugerties. We are required to review the Direct Access Plan and decide whether to approve it or not. If people are in an area that doesn't have their own local library, then their residents tend to go elsewhere and are an added burden to those towns and those towns' citizens pay for it. They may complain that they don't want anyone who doesn't live in their town or village to use their libraries. This is a way to let the town and villages know who is using the services from the library. Public Libraries need to be available to everyone but how do we do that without being a burden? This plan doesn't really affect our library but we need to vote on it for MHLS.

Motion: Ken moves to approve this plan. Valentina seconds. All in favor.

Secretary's Report:**MOTION: to approve**

Motion by Tim and seconded by Charlotte to approve the minutes. All in favor.

Treasurer's Report:

Annual report to the Community mailing was a large cost this month. There was an increase of supplies purchased for the Summer Reading Program and books this month too.

MOTION: Motion to pay the bills in the amount of \$34,277.18 was made by Charlotte and seconded by Ken.

All in favor.

Director's Report: Please see the report included in the Meeting Packet.

- 1) Summer reading program: It is in full swing. It is about dinosaurs and geology. There are some programmers coming and bringing fossils. Both the Teen and Children's librarians went to the schools to promote the program. Adult program: a brochure with things to do to color in images. Teens and kids have ways to get prizes. Kristina is reading chapter books to the boys and girls club. It is going well.
- 2) PR for Digital Books: This was attempting to explain the difference between digital books-save vs. hold in an effort to reduce impulsive holds which increase the requirements for digital material purchasing.

Ambassadors report: Teresa: MH library bulletin came out. NYS budget is finalized and is the latest since 2010. Small increases everywhere. There is some stabilization for funding. There is a line to fund a social worker at libraries. Dolly Parton Imagination Library got some funding as well.

Committee Reports:

Finance: see minutes attached

-met to finalize budget

Next meeting: August 17th at 6:00

Personnel/Policy: See minutes attached.

-We looked at the community room policy. We are trying to make sure we are abiding by our policy and making sure we are equal opportunity. Jen is going to reach out to the lawyer regarding the religious aspect.

-We are looking at the Personnel Manual. That is a lengthy process.

-We have one action item: Article V: Officers and their Duties: new language
A former trustee, who has vacated their seat for a minimum of three years before being elected for a new term, will be considered a New Trustee and may serve as a committee chair or be elected to an Executive Office after 1 year of required service.

Motion to adopt language: Tim motions. Charlotte seconds it. All in favor.

Next meeting: July 22nd at 6:15

Facilities: No meeting last month

Next meeting: July 21st at 6:00

Outreach: See minutes attached.

-They discussed using biblioboard to showcase local musicians. They are talking to local musicians to see if this is a good idea. Maybe expand into writers later on.

- They want to target Oct. or Nov. to get local based aid societies together to let the community know what resources are available to them and people who might want to volunteer with one of the resources. Teresa is looking into local resources and she is researching what she finds.

Next meeting: July 27th at 5:30

Next meeting for the Board: Next meeting: August 13, 2026 Regular Meeting and Public Hearing for the 2027 Budget.

Motion to adjourn by Tim at 7:14 PM

Seconded by Paul

Passes unanimously.

Submitted by Rebecca Lang