Saugerties Public Library
Regular Board Meeting
Date: October 8, 2026

Present: Trustees Timothy Scott, Valentina Kielland, Rebecca Lang, Kerry McQuaide, Ken Goldberg, Alice Graves, Teresa Giordano, Paul Van Benschoten, Yosefa Karchmar, Ed Gerrard

Absent: Erin Poll
Staff:Liz Mendoza -Interim Library Director
Signing Oath of Office, Conflict of Interest, Ethics Statement Forms

Public Attendees: Bill Barr (Town Board Liaison), Ray Rebholz

Meeting called to order at 6:11 PM by President Tim Scott

Public Comment:
Bill Barr: At last night's meeting they had 10 people speaking in favor of the battery plant. A change from the normal sentiment. They talked about zoning regulations regarding indoor agriculture. They also talked about a storm water plan. The next meeting is October 21st. Their budget is due by November.

Friends of Library:
Ray Rebholz**:** Next meeting is October 19th at 7:00. On Nov 4th, there is a wine and cheese event at Total Tennis. All of the replacement little free libraries are installed. They had a table at the trustee/budget vote and they have gained some new members and now have roughly 200 members.

Old Business:

1. **Budget and Election Results:** The budget was successful. There was a very low turnout despite the change in date in the attempt to spur voter turnout. Ed is the new trustee. Paul has been re-elected.
2. **Goodbye to outgoing trustee:** Goodbye to Charlotte. A small thank you card/gift was given.

New Business:
1. Nominating Committee: Yosefa and Alice worked on this.
The nominees are: President: Tim, Vice President: Paul, Secretary: Rebecca,Treasurer: Ken
Motion:
Paul makes a motion to allow Tim to run again due to special circumstances. Alice seconds that and all are in favor.
Motion: Paul makes a motion to elect the nominees. Teresa seconds that and all are in favor.

Committees:
Finance: Chairman is Ken and Kerry on committee
Facilities:Chairman is Paul and Yosefa on the committee
Personnel and Policy: Chairman is Valentina and Rebecca and Erin on the committee
Outreach: Chairman is Teresa and Ed and Alice are on the committee
Nominating: Chairman is Yosefa with Alice and Teresa on the committee

2. Search Committee: Tim, Ken, Valentina, Erin, Alice, Paul, and Rebecca. We have 11 applications. Most are unqualified. We did find two individuals, A.S. and L.M. who we interviewed. At this time, L.M. is our top choice. There is no strong second choice.

We'd like to recommend a different salary range. The current $70-75,000 range is not adequate. We would like to raise our advertisement to $80-85,000. What happens if we offer this to L.M. and it is not enough? She makes over $100,000. Tim would like to be authorized by the board to offer L.M. an offer at $85,000. If she accepts, we would all talk to her. If she wants to bargain, it would have to come to the board for discussion. We do offer health insurance, life insurance and retirement through the state. She also got an oral recommendation from Rebecca Smith-Aldrich. Her timeline was not discussed at the interview. We look at inflation and CPI every year and we try to increase what we can.

Motion: Ken makes a motion that we let the maximum salary be raised from $70-$75,000 to $80- 85,000 and Kerry seconds that. All in favor.

Motion: Tim makes a motion that he can make an offer not to exceed $85,000 to candidate L.M. Alice seconds. All in favor.

Tim will reach out over the next week.

3. Banned Books Week (October 4 - 10, 2026)
Motion: Tim would like to post the ALA proclamation regarding Banned Books. The proclamation states:

Banned Books Week Proclamation

"Let Books Be. Protect the Freedom to Read."

WHEREAS, the freedom to read is essential to our democracy, and reading is among our greatest freedoms; and

WHEREAS, privacy is essential to the exercise of that freedom, and the right to privacy is the right to open inquiry without having the subject of one's interest examined or scrutinized by others; and

WHEREAS, the freedom to read is protected by our Constitution; and

WHEREAS some individuals, groups, and public authorities work to remove or limit access to reading materials, to censor content in schools, to label "controversial" views, to distribute lists of "objectionable" books or authors, and to purge libraries of materials reflecting the diversity of society; and

WHEREAS, both governmental intimidation and the fear of censorship cause authors who seek to avoid controversy to practice self-censorship, thus limiting our access to new ideas; and

WHEREAS, every silencing of a heresy, every enforcement of an orthodoxy, diminishes the toughness and resilience of American society and leaves it less able to deal with controversy and difference; and

WHEREAS, Americans still favor free enterprise in ideas and expression, and can be trusted to exercise critical judgment, to recognize propaganda and misinformation, and to make their own decisions about what they read and believe, and to exercise the responsibilities that accompany this freedom; and

WHEREAS, intellectual freedom is essential to the preservation of a free society and a creative culture; and

WHEREAS, conformity limits the range and variety of inquiry and expression on which our democracy and our culture depend; and

WHEREAS, the American Library Association's Banned Books Week: Celebrating the Freedom to Read is observed during the last week of September each year as a reminder to Americans not to take their precious freedom for granted; and

WHEREAS, Banned Books Week celebrates the freedom to choose or the freedom to express one's opinion even if that opinion might be considered unorthodox or unpopular and stresses the importance of ensuring the availability of those unorthodox or unpopular viewpoints to all who wish to read them; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Saugerties Public Library celebrates the American Library Association's Banned Books Week, (October 4 - 10, 2026), and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Saugerties Public Library encourages all libraries and bookstores to acquire and make available materials representative of all the people in our society; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Saugerties Public Library encourages free people to read freely, now and forever.

Paul seconds the motion to adopt this and all in favor.

Mid-Hudson has a fund to purchase ALA banned books and make them available on the website. That way they are available to everyone even if the library doesn't have it. Ken can let you know where to send donations to if you'd like

4. National Friends of Libraries Week (October 18 - 24, 2026)

We would like to honor our Friends in some way during this time. It doesn't necessarily need to be that week. We should brainstorm some ideas about what to do.

Secretary's Report:
MOTION: **to adopt as written**
Motion by Tim and seconded by Yosefa to approve the minutes. All in favor.

Treasurer's Report:
MOTION: $16,000 to the checking account so we are set for payroll.
Motion to pay the bills in the amount of $26,014.36 was made by Tim and seconded by Ken
All in favor.

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

1) Liz was able to talk to Comprise to update the computers.
2) She talked to Rachel at ancient gardens about winterizing the garden
3) Clerks have cleaned up the DVD collection.
4) There was a donation that needs to be spent by 11/1. Some of that needs to be used on the library of things.
5) The job posting was updated
6) A yoga class is doing free classes on Fridays
7) Lucky Diaz presentation for children
8) The Great Give Back is going on. Ulster County is not doing well but still accepting food donations.
9) MHLS annual meeting 10/23. You can get reimbursed. You must sign up by 10/16.You can get one credit hour for going.

Ambassadors report:

Teresa: There is nothing at this time.

Committee Reports:

Finance: See minutes attached.

1) There is a 6 month bond with M&T that matures tomorrow. Ken will talk to them tomorrow and renew is for 6 more months
2) The elevator: The software and hardware is no longer being produced. The price for doing a complete update is approx $125,000. Ken discovered that there is more money available for construction aid through MHLS. Most grants have been getting approved. He asked if our elevator could be submitted for a grant next year. And have our new director get in touch with them with the information and we can develop a construction grant next year.

Next meeting: 10/19 at 6:00pm

Personnel/Policy: See minutes attached.

1) Incident that started inside the women's restroom that spilled out into the sidewalk. Two teenagers and a seven year old. Jen approached a teenager, trying to calm her down, and the teenager called the parent. The father got aggressive with Jen. The police were called. The folks had dispersed by the time the officer arrived. Jen has banned those involved for six months. Liz tried to contact the officer involved but cannot get in touch with him. We would like the officer to contact Liz and Bill can reach out regarding this. We would like to know what exactly was said. Erin is going to begin drafting a letter to state that we don't agree with what has been put in place. The committee, after review of the report and the video and a conversation with the teen librarian, looked at Jen's decision. We'd like to rescind the ban on all involved except for the individual who got aggressive with Jen.

   There used to be a de-escalating training but that has expired and we recommend that this is reinstated. Ryan Dowd training.

   Jen had previously talked to the Board about hiring a social worker to be here and "help" with the teens. We do not want the police handling everything.

2) We looked at the safe child policy. Currently they need to be monitored by an 18 year old but we wanted to lower that to 16.
   Motion: By Tim to revise the language in the safe child policy to lower the age from 18 to 16. Seconded by Rebecca. Opposed by Ken. Everyone else is in favor.

Next meeting: 10/28th at 6:15

Facilities:
Discussed long term projects
Next meeting: 10/20th at 6:00

Outreach: They did not meet

Liz would like to add a "meet the board" page on the website. Something to talk about going forward.
Next meeting: 10/26 at 5:30

Next meeting for the Board: Next meeting: November 12, 2026
Motion to adjourn by Tim at 7:35PM
Seconded by Rebecca
Passes unanimously.
Submitted by Rebecca Lang