

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
WASHINGTON COUNTY FREE LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
HELD IN PERSON AT FLETCHER BRANCH  
January 14, 2026

Present:	Stephen Schutte, President Laurie Bender, Treasurer Kathy Oliver Kendra Stauch Kathy Kerns Kathy Poole Aaron Peteranecz	Emeritus:	Al Martin
		Absent:	
Staff Present:	Jenny Bakos Kathleen O'Connell Sara Baker Laura Zeigler Jennifer Keysor Elizabeth Hulett Madison Smith	Public:	Arthur LaRue Elizabeth Paul

The meeting was called to order at 12:09 PM by Mr. Schutte, the Board President.

**Public Comment**

Elizabeth Paul made a public comment.

**Minutes**

The minutes of the November 12, 2025, Board meeting were reviewed. Mr. Schutte moved to approve the minutes with a second by Ms. Bender, with a unanimous vote.

**Executive Director's Report**

Ms. Bakos' report was inclusive of all activities.

**Director of Public Services Report**

Ms. O'Connell stated her report was inclusive of all activities. It was noted that we have an upcoming 250<sup>th</sup> Celebration, as well as the Fix It Fair by Information Services.

### **Director of Operations**

Ms. Keysor's report was inclusive of all activities.

### **Director of Western Maryland Regional Library**

Ms. Hulett's report was inclusive of all activities. It was noted that her group is planning the Tri-County Summit planned for October 2026, to be held at the Fletcher branch.

### **Financial Statement**

Ms. Baker presented the December 2025 financial statements for WCFL and WMRL.

Ms. Bender moved to approve the December 2025 financial statements for WCFL and WMRL for audit, and Ms. Oliver seconded the motion with unanimous approval.

### **Financial Committee Update**

The electric bill has increased at the Fletcher Branch. It is a noticeable increase.

### **Personnel and Policy Committee**

The committee moved to adopt the Public Services Hours policy as stated. Ms. Oliver moved to approve, with a second from Ms. Bender, with a unanimous vote.

### **Old Business**

#### **Nominations for 2026 Board of Trustees Members**

Mr. David Donohue of Williamsport, Maryland was voted in unanimously, by the Board, to fill the empty Board of Trustees seat for 2026.

### **New Business**

The FY 27 Budget was presented by Ms. Bakos. A motion was made by Mr. Schutte, with a second from Ms. Bender. The budget was passed unanimously.

### **Board Comments:**

Ms. Kerns –I would also like to compliment all of the work on the budget. Also, can we find a work around for Passport Services?

Ms. Poole – Looking forward to the Reality Fair, also, nice work on the budget

Mr. Peteranecz – Nice work

Ms. Stauch – Nice work on the budget!

Mr. Schutte – Excellent work on everything.

Ms. Bender – Ditto what Stephen said! Nice work Sara and Madison!

Mr. Martin – Ditto! Great work Sara and Madison!

Ms. Oliver – I saw the Bookmobile at Family Night for the Washington County Museum of Fine Arts!

### **Executive Session**

*To discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction; any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals.*

Mr. Schutte moved to order the Executive Session with the board, with a second from Mr. Peteranecz. The library staff were excused except Ms. Bakos, Ms. Hulett, Ms. Keysor and Ms. O’Connell. The Executive Session began at 1:08pm, and ended at 1:22pm, and staff were asked back to the meeting.

**The meeting adjourned at 1:23pm. Ms. Bender moved to approve, and Ms. Oliver seconded with unanimous approval.**