

Minutes of Meeting
Board of Trustees of the Town Hall Library
Town of Merton, Wisconsin

August 18, 2025

- I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 3:45pm by President Cull. Also attending were Trustees Ruck, Stover, Boettcher, Dolphin and Library Director Iyengar.

- II. Public Input: Mike Johnson from Alternative Design and Construction gave the board an update on the insurance claim for hail damage to the library roof and exterior. His contention is that this is still an open case rather than a final disposition that denied most of the claim. He will continue to communicate with the insurance company and offer further evidence of hail damage. His rough estimate is \$70,000.00 to fix the damage.

- III. Consent Agenda:
 - a. The Minutes of the July 21, 2025 meeting were unanimously approved on Motion by Boettcher, seconded by Cull.
 - b. The Statistics report was accepted as presented.

- IV. Committee Reports:
 - i. Director's Report:
 - July statistics were great, with a 7.7% increase from June circulation of materials
 - 121 people attended the Magic show at the library. The program had to be in the lower level children's area because of weather, and a meeting in the McBroom Room
 - 163 people participated in the Color Photo Contest
 - Library statistics have rebounded to pre-Covid numbers, a wonderful milestone.
 - The library is seeking a Youth Services Librarian to replace Hunter, who resigned, and Tiffany, who was terminated. The job was posted August 8 and has had several applicants. Jacqueline Hernandez was hired for a 20-hour Youth Services Associate position. A 10-hour position is also open to applicants.
 - The Strategic Planning committee continues and is awaiting the results from the 225 survey responses. That information is expected in September, with a meeting scheduled for October.
 - Preparations for painting the library exterior have begun. The work will take two weeks, depending on the weather.
 - ii. Bridges Library System:
 - The reports were accepted as presented.
 - iii. Friends Liaison:
 - Rogers Blum was not in attendance, but Dolphin reported that the Friends plan a book sale with popcorn at Harvest Fest on September 20, and a cookie sale on December 6.
 - iv. Foundation Liaison:

-Mesenbrink was not in attendance but did attend a Foundation meeting earlier this month. Director Iyengar reported that the Foundation had met and seemed willing to consider funding projects such as an ADA compliant door opener on the north entrance. Iyengar will get estimates to give to the Foundation.

v. Town Board Liaison:

-No report due to the absence of Supervisor Fleming. The Library Board has been called to a meeting with the Town Board on August 25 to discuss the budget.

vi. School Board Liaison:

-No report due to school still being on summer vacation.

V. Financial Reports:

a. July 2025 invoices for \$51,967.65 were unanimously approved on Motion by Boettcher, seconded by Stover.

b. July 2025 petty cash report for \$276.00 was unanimously approved on Motion by Boettcher, seconded by Ruck.

VI. Unfinished Business: none

VII. New Business:

a. Discussion-Roof replacement. See above Public Input. Updates expected.

b. Discussion-Library operations budget 2026.

The amount for the Town of Merton to exempt its residents from the Waukesha County library tax for 2026 is \$611,075. Director Iyengar used that number along with Waukesha County Revenues of \$118,016 and Other County Revenues of \$40,898.27 in a projected budget for 2026. A detailed budget will be developed after the Town Board's decision on the tax exemption.

c. Discussion-Building Improvements

On request from the Town clerk, Director Iyengar provided a breakdown of building maintenance and capital improvements. ADA compliance and roof replacement are foremost of many needed updates to our aging building, along with regular significant maintenance and ongoing repairs.

VIII. Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 5:12pm on Motion by Cull, seconded by Boettcher, unanimously approved.

Next Meeting: Special Meeting between the Town Hall Library Board of Trustees and the Town of Merton Board of Supervisors on August 25, 2025 at 5:00pm at the Town of Merton Town Hall

Next Regular Meeting: Town Hall Library Board of Trustees on September 15, 2025 at 3:45pm in the Town Hall Library McBroom Room