

MORTON PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT
February 18, 2026

ROLL CALL

The Morton Public Library District Board meeting was called to order at 4:30 pm. Director Williams and all board members, Turner, Hilliard, Ropp, Mousty, Riesberg and Thompson were present.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

MINUTES

The minutes from the January 21, 2026 Board Meeting were approved as submitted. The minutes from the January 21, 2026 Closed Session were reviewed and approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mousty reported that two Better Banks CDs are coming due in March and April and he will continue to look for the best rates to renew. The transfer of the Treasurer's Bond to Mousty has been completed. A change will be made to the Board Bylaws regarding the bond, lowering the percentage from 50% to 10% of the state revenue to align with current state law. **Ropp moved and Turner seconded that the February bills be paid. A roll call vote was held. The motion carried unanimously.**

February 2026	
Invoices Paid	\$36,377.33
Ameren Illinois	669.66
I3 Broadband	389.05
Morton Utilities	869.07
Total Bills:	\$38,305.11
Director	7,034.43
Staff	39,446.03
Payroll Total:	\$46,480.46
Employer IMRF	\$4,788.70
Employer FICA	\$3,555.70

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Williams reported that she continues to investigate options with respect to e-books and audiobooks. The cost of providing this service continues to be a significant concern for all libraries. Williams provided a brief synopsis of the issue complete with graphics that board members can share with concerned patrons.

Williams will deliver a presentation at the Village Forecast Breakfast on April 14th, 8:00 to 10:00 am at Grace Church. National Library Week occurs April 19-25th. The board plans to provide a snack or treat at some point during that week for library staff.

Securing funding for shipping costs associated with Tazewell County's participation in the Imagination Library continues to be challenging. Appeals have been made to community groups and private donors. Tazewell County currently has 42% enrollment in the program. The state Imagination Library can provide some help as well. Riesberg suggested that the Imagination Library ties closely to Rotary's mission and that it might be worthwhile to investigate whether they could assist with future funding.

The staff attended a second training session on February 16th with Bloom Consulting on creating a collaborative culture. They considered decision making, utilizing shared language, ideas versus directives, and the "culture of nice", among other concepts.

NEW BUSINESS

Ropp moved and Riesberg seconded to approve updates to the Credit Card Policy. The motion carried unanimously.

The board discussed making visits to other libraries in preparation for a potential expansion project. Turner created a checklist for what to look for and will develop a site to which members can upload photos of any libraries they visit.

OLD BUSINESS

Director Williams asked the board to finalize suggested changes to Director's Goals resulting from the Director's Review. A goal related to investing in employee culture as suggested by consultant Melissa Bloom was added and a goal related to updated signage in the library building was further clarified.

OTHER BUSINESS

The board reviewed applications from potential candidates for appointment to the unexpired term left by Gryl's resignation. The board agreed to invite a candidate to a Special Meeting at 4:15 on March 18th, prior to the regular Board Meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:18 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Heather W. Thompson, Secretary

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday March 18, 2026 at 4:30 pm.