

**MORTON PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT**  
**Special Meeting**  
**March 18, 2026**

**ROLL CALL**

A Special Session of the Morton Public Library District Board was called to order March 18, 2026 at 4:15 pm. Director Williams and board members, Turner, Hilliard, Ropp, Riesberg and Thompson were present. Mousty was absent.

**PURPOSE**

The Special Meeting was called for the selection of a person to fill a vacancy on the Morton Public Library District Board. Patrick Klopfenstein was invited to address the board as a prospective board member to fill the unexpired term left by Kim Gryl's resignation.

Klopfenstein addressed the board with information about his background, education and professional pursuits. Board members asked questions regarding Klopfenstein's interest in serving as a board member. He was invited to stay and observe the regular Board Meeting following the Special Meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the Special Meeting closed at 4:29 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Heather W. Thompson, Secretary

**MORTON PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT**  
**March 18, 2026**

**ROLL CALL**

The Morton Public Library District Board meeting was called to order at 4:32 pm. Director Williams and board members, Turner, Hilliard, Ropp, Riesberg and Thompson were present. Mousty joined the meeting at 4:55 pm.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Patrick Klopfenstein attended the meeting as a prospective board member.

**PRESENTATION BY MELISSA BLOOM, CONSULTANT**

Ms. Bloom delivered a presentation of the work she has been doing with the library staff. She noted that the number of staff had increased in recent years and that a decline in employee satisfaction is normal under these circumstances. The purpose of her involvement was to help clarify job descriptions, identify breaks in communication, and, during two half-day workshops, improve communication. Staff worked on, among other things, implementing a shared language, understanding the hierarchy of decision making, creating a regular meeting cadence with shared agendas, and addressing the "culture of nice". Bloom was optimistic that these tools will help to improve the culture of the library going forward.

(Mousty joined meeting at 4:55)

**MINUTES**

The minutes from the February 18, 2026 Board Meeting were approved as submitted.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Mousty reported that another Better Banks CD is coming due and he is waiting for the latest rates before making a renewal decision. **Ropp moved and Mousty seconded that the March bills be paid. A roll call vote was held. The motion carried unanimously.**

March 2026		
Invoices Paid		\$52,537.45
Ameren Illinois		477.18
I3 Broadband		389.37
Morton Utilities		557.75
Total Bills:		\$53,961.75
Director		7,192.54
Staff		41,625.86
Payroll Total:		\$48,818.40
Employer IMRF		\$4,612.36
Employer FICA		\$3,734.62

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Williams presented the 2026 Activity Plan that she and staff developed in furtherance of the strategic plan. Williams also reported that the MCF Grant Review Committee is asking for a volunteer from the

library to serve in the grant process on Wednesday, April 8<sup>th</sup> from 3:30 to 5:00 pm. Riesberg volunteered to be the library representative.

Williams discussed with the board the increasing costs associated with Hoopla. Nationally, libraries are finding the Hoopla costs to be unstable and are canceling their subscription in favor of other services. The team has reviewed the cost and availability of other services, the overlap in available titles, and the ability to better manage costs with other services. Williams is recommending that the library eliminate Hoopla after Summer Reading. The issue will be tabled until next month's meeting.

(Patrick Klopfenstein left the meeting)

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Turner moved and Riesberg seconded to appoint Patrick Klopfenstein to fill the unexpired term vacated by Gryl. The motion carried unanimously.**

**Ropp moved and Riesberg seconded to hire Mike Miller for mowing and trimming. The motion carried unanimously.**

**Thompson moved and Turner seconded to approve the closing of the library at 5:00 pm on July 24<sup>th</sup> for the Adult Summer Reading Party. The motion carried unanimously.**

**Ropp moved and Hilliard seconded to approve moving May's Regular Board Meeting to May 13<sup>th</sup>, which will be held at Freedom Hall in order to accommodate programming for finals at the library.**

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

Staff appreciation days will be held the week of April 19-25<sup>th</sup>. Ropp will provide scones, Riesberg will provide cookies, and Williams will provide lunch.

The board will visit the Galesburg Library as a group, date to be determined. In addition, board members will try to visit the four local libraries identified on the list provided by Williams by May.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

The board discussed whether the library needs a smaller van that better meets the library's needs. This matter will be further discussed in the future.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:07pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Heather W. Thompson, Secretary

The next meeting will be held Wednesday April 15, 2026 at 4:30 pm.