MORTON PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT
Board Meeting Minutes
July 15, 2026

BUDGET HEARING
The Annual Budget and Appropriations Hearing was opened on July 15, 2026 at 4:30 pm. There being no appearance for public comment, the hearing was closed at 4:35 pm.

ROLL CALL
The Morton Public Library District Board meeting was called to order at 4:35 pm. Director Williams and board members, Turner, Hilliard, Riesberg, Klopfenstein, Mousty and Thompson were present.

New Board Member and Trustee Allison Schieferle-Uhlenbrock took the Oath of Office and was welcomed to the board.

MINUTES
The minutes from the June 17, 2026 Regular Board Meeting were approved as submitted.

TREASURER'S REPORT
Mousty delivered the Treasurer's Report. He renewed a CD at Better Banks for 13 weeks at 3.72% and will seek the best rates for two additional CDs which mature in July. Turner and Mousty, as president and treasurer respectively, are both copied on communications with financial institutions. Williams noted that she has ordered new checks compatible with the system used by the outsourced bookkeeping service. **Turner moved and Mousty seconded that the July bills be paid. A roll call vote was held. The motion carried unanimously.**

July 2026		
Invoices Paid		$ 61,338.33
Ameren Illinois		$ 763.79
I3 Broadband		$ 390.46
Morton Utilities		$ 406.70
Total Bills:		$ 62,899.28
Director		$ 7,245.46
Staff		$ 40,485.58
Payroll Total:		$ 47,731.04
Employer IMRF		$ 4,534.07
Employer FICA		$ 3,651.41

DIRECTOR'S REPORT
Williams reminded the board that a new board photo will be taken at 4:00 pm prior to the September Board Meeting. Board members will wear a library t-shirt of their choice for the photo. Staff training is scheduled for August 12th. Board members will provide dessert as a thank-you to staff for their hard work with Summer Reading. Turner agreed to order a cake or other dessert. Responses to the RFQs are due this Friday. Williams sent inquiries to ten different companies and has received RFQs from Dewberry, Graham & Hyde, FEH Design, Product Design, and Williams Architects. The board will be asked to review all RFQs and will decide at the August board meeting which firms will be invited to make a presentation.

NEW BUSINESS
Williams proposed a wage increase for library staff for the purpose of improving recruitment and retention as well as correcting wage compression. The proposed increase will put MPL wages in line with those offered at comparable libraries and will make MPL more competitive. **Klopfenstein moved and Riesberg seconded to accept the Staff Wage Adjustment as proposed, effective July 13, 2026. A roll call vote was held. The motion carried unanimously.**

Klopfenstein moved and Hilliard seconded to approve the Board Meeting dates for fiscal year 2026. The motion carried unanimously.

Mousty moved and Turner seconded to approve Budget and Appropriations Ordinance 26-1. The motion carried unanimously.

Mousty moved and Klopfenstein seconded to approve the Auditor Engagement Letter with Ginoli &Co. for fiscal year 2025. The motion carried unanimously.

Turner moved and Klopfenstein seconded to approve the revisions to the Meeting Room Policy. The motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS
The board continued its ongoing discussion of the mounting costs of digital media and the unsustainability of Hoopla's pricing model. Williams has taken a number of steps to contain costs over the last several months however these have proven largely ineffective. Libby's model provides greater control over spending and allows a balance between patron access and responsible stewardship over taxpayer dollars. **Hilliard moved and Klopfenstein seconded to discontinue the library's Hoopla subscription at the end of its current contract this fall. The motion carried unanimously.**

OTHER BUSINESS
There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Heather W. Thompson, Secretary

The next meeting will be held Wednesday August 19, 2026 at 4:30 pm.