

## **March 2026 MUTPL Board Meeting Minutes**

**The Monticello-Union Township Public Library Board of Trustees met in regular session in the conference room of the reopened Broadway site (2/5/26) on Monday, March 9, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.** Present were Director Candace Wells, Treasurer/Bookkeeper Sharon Bail, Circulation Services Manager Scott Miller, Youth Services Manager Tammy Criminger, and trustees Tom Fletcher, Chuck Kubly, Don Osten, Jo Piatt, Teresa Puterbaugh, and Emily Thacker. Trustee Butch Kramer was absent. Also attending was Sue Schlimme, president of our Friends of the Library group.

**Call to Order/Approval of Agenda/Public Comments** – At 5:00 p.m., President Don Osten called the meeting to order. As moved by Chuck Kubly and seconded by Emily Thacker, the board approved the agenda as presented.

**Public Comments** – Sue Schlimme spoke about a New Business item to be addressed tonight - adding a chair and small table to better “stage” the Friends’ Book Sale area and to give shoppers a place to sit, funded by using some of the remaining building funds (See NB #1).

**Approval of the Minutes** – The minutes of the February 9, 2026, meeting were approved as presented as moved by Chuck Kubly and seconded by Jo Piatt.

**Business and Finance** – A) Treasurer/Bookkeeper Sharon Bail noted our February financial details that had made monthly expenses once again higher than average. She mentioned a higher NIPSCO bill, citing our additional space to be heated. However, we should also have a more efficient HVAC system, so there are still questions in this area. (See green HO for other bill details.) Candace called the board’s attention to the \$10,000 donation we received from the Carnegie Foundation in honor of the 250th birthday of the USA. She spoke of partnering with the Historical Society to provide programming or resources focused on local history. Trustees reviewed claims from 2/1/26 to 2/28/26, and approved the financial report and the February claims of \$80,512.32 as moved by Don Osten and seconded by Tom Fletcher. B) As moved by Emily Thacker and seconded by Tom Fletcher, the board approved the payments by Argent (The Huntington National Bank) from the Leasing Corporation’s construction fund to the creditors listed on the affidavit (See Affidavit for Payment and other HO’s for itemized expenditures). C) As moved by Jo Piatt and seconded by Teresa Puterbaugh, trustees approved the Resolution for Cancellation of Old Outstanding Checks. This voided two (2) outstanding checks that had remained unpaid for two (2) years - a regular adjustment made by the treasurer.

**Director’s Report** – Candace opened with “We’ve been busy - back in full swing!” Before going on, she asked her managers to briefly summarize their reports. 1) Scott Miller focused on plans to implement self check out and to reinstate a card catalog system again. Part of the process for both is deciding where to put them. 2) Tammy Criminger said the children’s program space “is a dream to use.” She and her staff love their new area, and regular programs are moving along well for ages preschool through teens. 3) Candace again gave an abbreviated report (See her HO for details.) but called attention to A) the ongoing search to fill the maintenance position, and B) Indiana’s new law that targets library budget growth and seems to have been rushed through the last legislative session day with no discussions, tagged onto another bill at the last minute. Sharon and Candace are watching the growth quotient closely in pre-2027 budget preparations.

**Old Business – Update on the Building Project** – Candace noted that progress continues, but lots of things still need to be completed, fixed, touched up, or added. She went through her entire list (See HO for more specifics) and especially spoke on 1) temperature issues; 2) nitrogen in the fire suppression system; 3) timing of lights turn off or on, both inside and out; 4) operating outdoor water spigots; 5) cleanup and landscaping around the property, particularly the south lawn, plus parking resurfacing; 6) Area Plan permits are OK (we think!); 7) tinting the south windows for better temperature control; 8) possibility of adding outdoor storage for program room tables, etc. because we lost storage area in the now mechanical room (being discussed with Lancer architect Haneen). Efforts to finish go on daily, including some surprises found in the process. Again, we are making progress.

**New Business** – The board then addressed several items.

1. KI Furniture Quote – As moved by Don and seconded by Jo, trustees approved \$2,332.09 to KI for a chair and small side table for the Friends’ Book Sale area, as requested (See Public Comments - Sue Schlimme). This furniture will match the rest of the library’s so may be moved and used elsewhere as needed.
2. Personnel Action – Permanent Status – Trustees approved Candace’s awarding permanent status to Jayden Stichnoth, who has completed his six-month probation, as moved by Chuck and seconded by Teresa.
3. Building Purchase Order #5 – As moved by Jo and seconded by Chuck, the board approved \$16,667.77 for additional items (see HO for specifics), including book carts and a Walker display system.
4. Circle “R” Electric Quote – As moved by Chuck and seconded by Jo, the board approved \$4,830 for the purchase and installation of various electrical supplies.
5. ASE Signage Quote – As moved by Don and seconded by Teresa, trustees approved \$479 for signs for one restroom and for the Art and Sherry Morgan Program Room.
6. Public Records Request – As moved by Emily and seconded by Chuck, the board approved a form to be used to request inspecting any public record held by MUTPL. A sample copy of this simple form (used also by Morgan County) was provided.

**President’s Comments/Adjournment** – Having no further business to come before the board, Don called for any comments or questions. Candace announced that we are getting back our full security deposit from the Temp - \$4,508.83. Don then adjourned the meeting with no objections at 6:19 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the MUTPL Board of Trustees is scheduled for **Monday, April 13, 2026, at 5 p.m.** at the MUTPL..

Respectfully submitted,

Emily S. Thacker, Secretary