

**BEDFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES**

**January 9, 2026**

A regular meeting of the Bedford Public Library Board of Trustees was held on January 9, 2026 in the Richmond Room. In attendance were Lee Joyce (Chair), Jerry Hanauer (Treasurer), Lauren Saidel-Baker (Trustee), Kevin Brown (Alternate Trustee), Miriam Johnson (Director), and Caitlin Loving (Assistant Director). The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

Absent: Catherine Rombeau (Alternate Trustee).

**Public Comments**—A local Bedford High School student introduced herself and her IB area of study, which is focusing on book banning and censorship. Another resident asked about how to run for Trustee in the upcoming election.

**Secretary's Report**—Minutes from the December 12, 2025 meeting were accepted and approved.

**Motion:** Lauren Saidel-Baker made a motion to approve; Lee Joyce seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report**— The Treasurer's report was reviewed and accepted.

**Acceptance of Gifts** –Miscellaneous donations - \$66.00; Judith MacLellan - \$84.00 for books; Miscellaneous (found in a book) - \$226.00.

**Motion:** Lauren Saidel-Baker made a motion to accept all gifts; Lee Joyce seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Director's Report** – See attached.

**Old Business:**

**Budget 2025**—Miriam Johnson shared that the 2025 budget is nearly spent down.

**Budget 2026**—Miriam Johnson said that the Town Council voted 4-3 to remove the reference position enhancement from the proposed 2026 budget at their meeting on December 17<sup>th</sup>. The public hearing for the budget is on Wednesday, January 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Public Restroom Project**—Lee Joyce and Miriam Johnson gave an update on the status of the public restroom project. The architect will redraw the two designs and gave a recommendation for a builder who can give an estimated cost for both renovation options for a fee.

**Landscaping and Trees Projects**—The trees will be trimmed and the marked ones will be taken down sometime this month. Jerry Hanauer brought up the potential for adding an irrigation system for landscaping. Miriam Johnson said that the engineer from Keach & Nordstrom will be sending the final stamped plan so that the upper level landscaping project can be put out to bid.

**Circulation Policy—Still waiting on attorney**—The procedure is in place for any requests that come in, but there has not been a response from the attorney yet.

**New Business:**

No new business.

The next meetings will be held on Friday, February 13, 2026; and Friday, March 6, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. in the Richmond Room. The meeting adjourned at 9:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Miriam Johnson  
Library Director

Caitlin Loving  
Assistant Director