

Bridgman Public Library Regular Board Meeting Minutes August 25, 2026 - 9:00 A.M.

Meeting Called to Order:

9:00 A.M. by Kole

Roll Call:

Present: Kole (President), Etter (VP), Collins (Secretary), Shaver (Treasurer), Cichon, Janoskey, Valauskas, Wilk

Absent: Noll, Worcester

Staff: Hebert, Abele, Mantei

Approval of Agenda:

Cichon motioned to move up *Discussion Item: Settlement of Employee Dispute* to a Closed Session that will take place after the Friends of the Library Report. Motion seconded by Kole. Motion passed 8-0.

Collins motioned to approve the agenda as amended. Motion seconded by Valauskas. Motion passed 8-0.

Guests:

Bernstein, Friends President

Public Comments (maximum 3 minutes per person):

None

Friends of the Library Representative:

The Friends book sale will be held on September 11 & 12. A donation of \$5000 was given to the Friends group in memory of Ariel Follett. The Friends are working with Library Staff to decide how to use the funds.

Enter Closed Session - 9:05

Discussed a recent employee dispute.

Reopened Public Session - 9:12

Committee Reports:

Personnel and Policy Committee:

- A review of the Library By-Laws will happen soon.

Facilities Committee:

- Windows have been cleaned inside and out. Hebert is receiving quotes to repair the masonry-related issues, as well as to powerwash and seal the building in preparation for the winter weather. There is also a roof leak in a structural gray area that both the roofer and the HVAC technician claim is not their responsibility.

Finance Committee:

- The annual audit will happen in October. Credit Card fees have been discussed as the Library pays a fee every time a credit/debit card is swiped. One CD was renewed last week and one is due for renewal.

Ambassador's Report:

- Collins gave cards and treats to three staff members: Rodgers who left the library, Rumsey for joining the library, and Lion for her work anniversary.

Director's Report:

- Hebert highlighted a few items from her report: The Library received \$13,500 from the Kimmel Foundation for updates to technology. We are awaiting the first payment from Indiana Michigan Power for our new Makers Space. The 60/60 Campaign is just over halfway there with \$31,130 received of the \$60,000 goal.

Approval of Board Meeting Minutes:

- Motion made by Valauskas to approve the July 28, 2026 Regular Board Meeting Minutes and the August 6, 2026 Special Board Meeting Minutes as written. Motion seconded by Collins. Motion passed 8-0.

Discussion Items:

- **Millage Renewal Strategy:** There are two library millage proposals that will be on the City of Bridgman ballot in November. Staff members Abele and Lion are working on informational Millage FAQs for the library website. The Friends will meet to discuss possible yard signage and other ways to show support for the Library's millage renewals.

Action Items:

- **Bills for July 2026 - \$35,873.40:** Motion made by Wilk to approve July 2026 bills totaling \$35,573.40. Motion seconded by Cichon. Motion passed 8-0.
- **Approve Settlement of Employee Dispute:** Motion made by Cichon to approve the settlement of a recent employee dispute. Motion seconded by Collins. Motion passed 8-0.

Second Public Comment (maximum 3 minutes per person):

No comments.

Communication and Correspondence:

None

Meeting Adjourned:

Motion made by Cichon to adjourn the meeting at 10:08 A.M. Motion seconded by Valauskas. Motion passed 8-0.

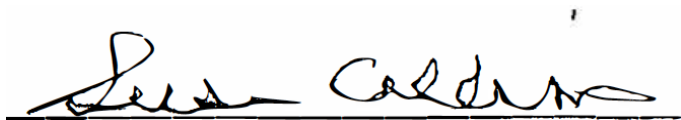
Next Meeting:

September 22, 2026 - 9:00 A.M. at the Library

Respectfully submitted by:

Amy Abele

Approved by the Secretary:



Date:

September 22, 2026
