Board of Trustees
of the Blauvelt Free Library
September 22, 2026

PRESENT: Kerry Beckmann (KB), Lawrence Dan Danner (LDD), Theona Jensen (TJ), Kathleen Lacker (KL), Sal Pagnani (SP), and Donald Syko (DS). A quorum was determined based on the presence of these trustees.

Staff Present: Claire Morrissey (CM), Library Director, Joan Ready (JR), Library Treasurer, and Maria Valentino (MV), recording secretary.

EXCUSED ABSENCE FROM MEETING ATTENDANCE: Michael Andrea (MA), Debbie Gallagher (DG), Lisa Honig-Andrea (LHA), and Alice Ryan (AR), Friends of the Library.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Lawrence Dan Danner (LDD), Board Vice President

PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE: None

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

MINUTES:

Motion to accept the minutes of the May 26, 2026, meeting, was made by KB, and seconded by KL. Motion passed unanimously by the quorum of Trustees.

Motion to accept the minutes of the June 23, 2026, meeting, was made by KB, and seconded by KL. Motion passed unanimously by the quorum of Trustees.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

JR presented the Treasurer's report for May 2026. Board members asked questions regarding some of the line items and JR explained them in detail.

Motion to accept the May 2026 Treasurer's report was made by KB, and seconded by KL. Motion passed unanimously by the quorum of Trustees.

JR presented the Treasurer's report for June 2026. Board members asked questions regarding some of the line items and JR explained them in detail.
Motion to accept the June 2026 Treasurer's report was made by DS, and seconded by SP. Motion passed unanimously by the quorum of Trustees.

JR presented the Treasurer's report for July 2026. Board members asked questions regarding some of the line items and JR explained them in detail.

Motion to accept the July 2026 Treasurer's report was made by KS, and seconded by DS. Motion passed unanimously by the quorum of Trustees.

JR presented the Treasurer's report for August 2026. Board members asked questions regarding some of the line items and JR explained them in detail.

Motion to accept the August 2026 Treasurer's report was made by KB, and seconded by SP. Motion passed unanimously by the quorum of Trustees.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

CM reviewed monthly stats and issues addressed in New Business, Old Business and General Maintenance/Operational Items.

CM advised that the library usage was up in attendance, material borrowing and internet/WiFi usage. The adult programs were increased and brought in more attendance. The Summer Reading Programs were successful. The Juvenile and Teens Programing offered a variety of programs and summer reading, but the numbers for Teens was lower than expected.

OLD BUSINESS:

Update Employee Manual 2026
CM advised that the final draft of the Personnel Manual is completed and has been provided to the Board of Trustees for review and discussion. This should be voted on and adopted at the October, 2026 meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Sewer Line
CM advised that Value Sewer & Drain Services (VSDS) recommended that we contact Mr. Bill Kingsley of PCS Pumps in Fairfield NJ, who specializes in industrial electrical issues and sewer pumps. PCP Pumps made a service call in June and reviewed the pumps and electrical panel which controls them. They were able to get one pump functioning but advised that we should replace the pumps and electrical panel. The cost would be $20,530. CM reached out to Kevin Stokes Excavation to discuss an alternative plan to move the drainage pipe to the back of the property, as they did for the Post Office. Mr. Stokes will look into what this entails and give CM a proposal. Board discussion ensued.

2027 Budget Proposal – Town of Orangetown
CM advised that Michael Andrea appeared before the Town Council on September 8th to present our annual budget. In it was a 3% voluntary reduction in funding resulting in a total Town funding amount of $672,191 for 2027. Based on the Library's current reserves, and estimated 259 School Budget vote in April 2027 in the amount of

$50,000, this proactive measure should prevent a further reduction in funds by the Town. The Town should confirm their funds in October, 2026. Board discussion ensued.

RCLS 2027 Budget
The RCLS Board of Trustees approved a 10% budget increase of $12,800 for its provided service fees. They had held the budget firm for the past five years. This will increase our cost by $278 per year.

GENERAL MAINTENANCE:

CM reported that the Power tank in the lower-level bathroom toilet was leaking and was replaced in August by Jason Goldsmith Plumbing, who secured and sealed the toilet which was wobbly. The cost of the repairs was $652.

OPERATIONAL ISSUES

Discussed in the Director's report.

MISCELLANEOUS:

DS asked if CM is going to have someone look at the moisture that is still coming in from the gutters at the front of the library. LDD asked DS about the RCLS documents. Board discussion ensued.

CM mentioned that Lynn Warshavsky is being recognized by the Orangetown Historical Museum and Archives on October 4th at the 76 House.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY REPORT:

Report by Friends of Blauvelt Free Library delivered by CM. The trip to see "I Hate Hamlet" is being offered on October 7th. AR is still trying to get more people to join the Friends.

ADJOURN MEETING:

A motion for adjournment of the Public meeting, was made at 7:30 PM by KL, and seconded by KB. Motion passed unanimously by a quorum of Trustees.

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 27, 2026, at 7:00 PM.