

**Minutes of the Port Jervis Free Library Board of Trustees  
May 21, 2026 – Special Meeting – Budget Hearing  
6:00 PM**

Present: Dolores Carnosa, Ed Falcone, Carl Hendrick, Liz Miller, Dick Roberts (Valerie Maginsky was excused)

**I Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance** - The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM.

**II Public Comment – agenda**

Two members of the public spoke. Both asked about the need for linkage between the Library's Strategic Plan and the operating budget. One also stated concern about the expenditures made in the past and budgeted for the hiring of a Director and legal fees.

**III Unfinished Business**

***Dolores made a motion, seconded by Dick, to appoint Liam Tomasi as an election inspector at a rate of \$300 for the budget vote and trustee election on June 4, 2026 from Noon to 8 PM.*** It was noted that the other election inspector, Pamela Russell, was approved at the May 12, 2026 meeting. ***Unanimously passed.***

**IV New Business – Budget Hearing**

- ***Liz made a motion, seconded by Dolores, to open the Public Hearing, a special information meeting, to consider the Library Tax Levy Proposition for the fiscal year July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027 at 6:03 PM. Unanimously passed.***
- Ed discussed each line item of both the expense and income categories included in the budget and responded to some clarifying questions from the public.
- The budget anticipates overall income/expenses of \$1,507,032 including \$1,232,269 to be raised through taxes. This budget represents a zero percent increase in taxes over the prior year. It also includes a \$186,013 drawdown from Fund Balance, if needed.
- Dan Schaaf asked about the overages of line items in the current (2025-2026) budget and why such overages have not been addressed. Ed explained that the overall budget has not been exceeded and that there are various acceptable means to deal with the issue, including the Library's practice to monitor expenditure levels in total and record line item adjustments at fiscal year-end.
- Burt Thelander emphasized the need for the Board and Director to monitor expenditures with progress in meeting the strategic goals of the Library and encouraged outreach efforts to the towns, particularly the Town of Deerpark.
- Carl stated that community input was sought and incorporated into the Strategic Plan and that the new Director will be tasked with revisiting these inputs and to establish contacts within governing bodies. Ed added that in September, RCLS releases data that measures the activities of the local library compared to all the RCLS-affiliated libraries, which will provide metrics to assess progress in attaining strategic goals. A suggestion was made that information regarding the library be posted at the Deerpark post office.
- ***Dick made a motion, seconded by Dolores to close the Public Hearing at 6:23 PM. Unanimously passed.***

## **V Public Comment**

A member of the public thanked the Board members for their significant volunteer service to the Library and the community.

## **VI Next Meeting**

- The next regular meeting is scheduled for June 9, 2026 at 6 PM.
- The Budget and Trustee vote is scheduled for June 4, 2026 between noon and 8 PM.

## **VII Adjournment**

***Liz made a motion, seconded by Dolores, to adjourn the meeting at 6:24 PM. Unanimously passed.***

Respectfully Submitted,  
Susan Wade, Board Clerk