

**Milford Public Library
Board Meeting Minutes
January 26, 2026 (via Zoom)**

President Ya’Nelle Powell called the meeting to order at 10:12 AM.

Present: Ya’Nelle Powell, Joe Zurzolo, Patti Calhoun, Meredith Wise, and Averi Richards

Staff Present: Lea Rosell

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: Patti motioned to approve the minutes. Meredith seconded.

Director’s Report: Circulation remains down overall, consistent with statewide trends; however, December 2025 was the best December in MPL history. All other metrics are trending above statewide averages. Annual Appeal totals \$17,175 to date, with an average donation of \$141.94. Additional donations have been received since reporting. Approximately 3,300 mailers were sent within the 19963 zip code. Improvements for next year will include having reply cards available in-library and refining geographic targeting using this year’s data. Salaries, wages, and benefits remain well-managed and are tracking stronger than this time last year.

Financial Reports: Patti motioned to approve the financial reports. Averi seconded.

New/Old Business: Zack King reported a new prospective restaurant tenant and inquired about the possibility of installing a pickup window facing the staff parking lot. The Board discussed traffic flow and safety concerns. Any further consideration would require a formal plan and logistics proposal from the property owner/tenant. MPL will participate in a postcard campaign to collect patron testimonials demonstrating constituent support for library funding before Sussex County Council. The Board agreed to invite Councilman Steve McCarron to attend the February board meeting for a tour and overview of library operations and construction plans. The first draft of FY27 is in progress and will be presented at the February meeting. MPL will celebrate 100 years in 2027. Planning discussions have begun to align fundraising, advocacy, and community engagement efforts with the anniversary year. The Fulton account was closed and a check for approximately \$54,000 was received. The Board directed that the funds be sent to Kit and placed in the money market to remain liquid. Norma has resigned due to unfortunate circumstances. Flowers, a card, and gift cards were sent. Coverage for her shifts is already in place.

Administrative Matters / Public Comments: N/A

Adjourn: Patti motioned to adjourn the meeting at 10:36 AM. Averi seconded.

The next regular board meeting will be held at **10:00 AM on Monday, February 23rd, 2026 in the Bailey Room at MPL.**