

**Minutes**  
**New Berlin Public Library Board Meeting**  
**July 21, 2025, at 6:00 P.M.**  
**New Berlin Public Library**  
**Marion Onesti Board Room**

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by President Marek at 6:00 P.M.

**Attendance:**

Members Present: Ruth Bock, Chuck Garrigues, Dolores Greenawalt, Nate Jung, Jill Kawala, Charlotte Kroupa, John Marek, Barb Uhen, and Patti Orzel  
Staff Members Present: Natalie Beacom, Director

**Friends of the Library (FOL):** No report.

**Consent Agenda Items:**

The following items were presented on the consent agenda for approval:

- A. Minutes from Monday, June 16, 2025
- B. Next meeting date: Monday, Aug. 18, 2025
- C. Bills and Invoices through June 30, 2025

Trustee Garrigues asked about the overspending in the account for vision and dental insurance. Director Beacom explained that it is due to the increase in insurance premiums. Trustee Bock made a motion to approve the consent agenda items. It was seconded by Trustee Garrigues. The motion passed 9-0.

**Administrative Reports:**

*President's Report:* President Marek noted that he has been attending story time regularly with his grandchildren. He and the grandchildren are impressed with the quality of the program.

*Director's Report:* Director Beacom's written report is included with the agenda packet. It is available online at the City of New Berlin's website. Director Beacom added that replacement parts for the book sorter have been located through Bibliotheca. Policy for public use of the library's green space was also briefly reviewed and discussed. The Director was encouraged to review options with the City Attorney.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:**

- A. *Digital Collections-Sustainable Models* – A growing number of patrons are moving from print to digital media. This transition has put stress on budgets throughout the Bridges System. Digital content is currently available from Hoopla and Libby, which have different pricing systems. Hoopla has a sliding scale for materials based on popularity. The library pays each time a patron downloads a movie, book, etc. Libby, on the other hand, is more like a traditional pricing system. Licenses are purchased once, shared, held, and repeated. The different pricing systems make Hoopla far more expensive than Libby. Several system-wide efforts were made to address this problem including limiting the number

of downloads per patron and negotiating with Hoopla. None were successful. As a result, money previously allocated to Hoopla will be transferred to Libby.

B. *2026 Operating Budget Draft* – The Board reviewed the budget for 2026 which needs to be submitted to the City for consideration on August 1, 2025. Highlights include:

- Potential adjustments to insurance and benefits.
- Increasing the materials budget to reflect population growth.
- Coordinating phone lines with the City to improve network access.
- Raising copier fees to increase revenue, and
- Purchasing IT services through the City to decrease costs and improve services.

The budget will be reviewed again at the Board’s meeting in August.

C. *Staff Development July Date- Cancelled* – The staff will continue working on the strategic plan and budget. Polaris training will take place in August.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Plans to add an area for rocking chairs or a small amphitheater to the library’s green space have been placed on hold after discussions with the City. Other options will be explored.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Trustee Kroupa made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Trustee Greenawalt. The motion passed on a vote of 9-0. The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patti Orzel, Secretary