

**Marshalltown Public Library  
Board of Trustees  
January 20, 2026**

**Members Present:** Tonya Gaffney, Sandy Bennett, Ashtyn Beek (remote), Erik Hall, Lea Husak (remote) Ronnie Manis, Ruzan Morrison

**Staff:** Sarah Rosenblum, Joa LaVille, Katie Fink

**Recording Secretary:** Sandy Gowdy

**City Guest:** Mayor Mike Ladehoff

President Tonya Gaffney called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.

**Public Comment:** Comments were made by Mike Ladehoff, John Worden and Ray Mitchum

**Board Comment:** Board president, Tonya Gaffney, presented a Certificate of Appreciation from the City Council to Ruzan Morrison for five years of service on the Library Board.

Gaffney also announced Nov. 4, 2026, as the official retirement date for library director, Sarah Rosenblum.

**Approval of the Agenda:** Moved/seconded ( Bennett/Hall) to approve the agenda. Passed.

**Approval of the December 16, 2025 Minutes:** Moved/Seconded (Morrison/Manis) to approve the minutes. Passed.

**Operating Bills:** It was moved/seconded (Manis/Hall) to approve the bills. Passed.

**Old Business:** There was no old business.

**New Business:**

*A: Interior Renovation Update:* \*\*Reminder: this project is being funded by the Friends of the Library!

Appreciation was extended to library staff, volunteers and city staff for help packing and relocating materials in preparation for the project. Substantial completion date is May.

*B: Internet Access Policy Review:* This review is necessary as part of the accreditation process.

It was moved/seconded (Morrison/Bennett) to increase the cost of printing B&W copies to 25 cents and color printing will increase to 50 cents per copy. Motion Passed.

*C: Staff Reports:*

*Katie:*

- Partnering with "Nine Square Feet" for a seed swap on Jan 31 from 1-3:00
- Recent puzzle swap was a success!
- A puzzle race is scheduled for February 7

*Joa:*

- New monthly scavenger hunts with a different theme each month
- Due to the unfilled position of Volunteer/Outreach Coordinator, the duties of that person has been folded into regular staff time. This includes teens and the adults who volunteer in the Youth Dept.
- The juvenile non-fiction collection is being weeded and updated with new titles

*D: Director's Report:*

- Staff Retirement: Monica Rohde-Fulton will retire on February 14. A party in her honor will be Feb. 14 from 2-4:00. Monica's current position is being re-worked with duties and salary seeing some changes and savings.

*E: Budget Discussion:* To re-cap the City Council meeting of January 19-- due to a

\$1.5 million deficit, the city is asking for a Library budget cut of \$125,000 (July 1, 2027-June 30, 2028)

Library Management Team has come up with potential cuts:

- Appoint Katie Fink as interim director from Nov '26-July '27
- Cut periodicals except for the T-R, Des Moines Register and Consumer Reports
- Charge a user fee for credit card transactions
- Eliminate all travel starting July 1
- Cut databases
- Have the city take over lawn mowing
- The Friends of the Library will increase their donation for Ebooks.
- Potential closures wrapping around holidays (July 4, Thanksgiving, Christmas)

Mayor Ladehoff gave some information and insight about city and state funding.

Next month, the Board will need to decide if cutting \$115,000 will be enough to cover the deficit.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, February 17 at 5:00pm

The meeting was adjourned at 6:18pm.

