

THE TALBOT COUNTY FREE LIBRARY
100 W. Dover St.
Easton, MD 21601
Minutes of the Board Meeting
April 16, 2026

The meeting was called to order by Susan Sherman at 5:03 pm. Meeting held at the Easton Library.

Attendees: Susan Sherman, Mary Pellicano, Charles Yonkers, Robert Forloney, Susan Regier, Ron Engle, Sandy Boyd, Robert Rankin, Town of Easton Liaison, Dana Newman, Director, Scotti Oliver, Assistant Director.

Excused: Andrew Thaler, Becky Amaral, Pete Leshner, Talbot County Council Liaison

Action Items:

- Board members voted on and approved the February 19, 2026, minutes.
- Board members voted on and accepted the Treasurer's Report.
- A reminder that the next board meeting is Thursday, May 21, 2026, at the Easton Library.

Review of the February 19, 2026, minutes: Susan Sherman asked the board if there were any corrections or changes. Hearing none, asked for a motion to approve with Ron Engle moving and Sue Regier seconding. All were in favor with none opposed. The motion carried.

Advocacy sharing:

- Mary Pellicano will write an article about the library for her community newsletter
- Scotti Oliver shared that staff had been involved in outreach during an event at the Talbot County Community Center
- Susan Sherman expressed her appreciation of the community members and others who came to the grand opening of the newly renovated St. Michael's Branch Library. Over 1,000 people attended the event.
- Dana Newman shared about the library's book clubs and that she had recently been interviewed by WBOC

New Business:

- Legislative Updates – Mary Pellicano reported the following:
 - ALA won the lawsuit over funding IMLS, Congress restored funding and added to the funding
 - February 10th was Maryland Library Legislative Day at the Maryland State Legislature. Dana Newman, Susan Sherman, Sue Regier, Mary Pellicano and Sabine Simonson attended.

- SB 378 and HB 1592 funding state libraries both passed but with less funding than requested
- SB 410 and HB 660 funding the state resource center will be watched closely
- Staff Handbook changes – members took the following actions:
 - Staff Conduct and Work Rules – with amendments; Ron Engle moving and Charlie Yonkers seconding. The motion passed
 - Confidentiality – as amended, Robert Rankin moving and Ron Engle seconding. The motion passed.
 - Social Media – Charlie Yonkers moved to accept the changes with Sue Regier seconding. The motion passed.
 - Equal Opportunity Employment Statement – after discussion, this change was tabled for further clarity
 - Accommodations for Pregnant Workers – discussion about changing the title to Accommodations for Pregnant and Nursing Workers. Also there was discussion about the wording workers vice employees. Tabled until changes are made.

President's Report:

- After Dana Newman was asked to leave the room, Susan Sherman discussed Dana's evaluation due in May 2026 and that while the rest of the staff received 1% merit raises after their evaluations this fiscal year, Dana did not get hers. Susan asked the Board to approve a retroactive 1% merit raise for Dana. Ron Engle motioned to approve the raise with Charlie Yonkers seconding. The motion passed.
- During this discussion, Susan Sherman asked for volunteers for the evaluation committee, and Sandy Boyd volunteered.
- The board will be presenting Shauna Beulah with a gift certificate upon her retirement.

Treasurer's Report: Mary Pellicano presented the treasurer's report. Susan Sherman asked if there were any comments, hearing none, asked for a motion to approve with Rob Rankin moving and Sue Regier seconding. All were in favor with none opposed. The motion carried.

Easton Town Council Representative's Report – Robert Rankin had no report but was asked about the plans for the site of the “old” hospital. Discussion ensued.

Librarian's Report - Dana Newman reported

- Shauna Beulah is now retiring June 1, 2026
- May 14th is the annual Business Appreciation and will be held from 8-10 am
- The annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon will include a tour of the newly renovated St. Michael's branch and lunch at Limoncello in St. Michaels
- Jane Steele retired April 1, 2026. Rez Kowalski was hired for her position
- Currently hiring for a Library Associate position at the St. Michaels library

- On Talbot Day, April 26, 2026 the lobby of the building will be open and we will be giving out free books
- There will be a Japanese Cherry Festival April 29, 2026 from 4-6 pm at the St. Michaels branch library. Diana Hastings, Children's Librarian, St. Michaels branch is organizing the festival which will include themed crafts and craft bags to take home.
- We have held many, well-attended programs in partnership with the Talbot Historical Society
- The annual Chesapeake Children's Book Festival will be held Saturday, June 6, 2026. If you can volunteer, let Scotti know.

Diversity and Inclusion Committee: Nothing to report

Nominating Committee:

- Looking for a treasurer; in the interim, Charlie Yonkers holds the position

Executive Committee:

- Mary Pellicano and Charlie Yonkers are still on the committee
- There will be two open slots on the board as of July 1, 2026

Friends Report:

- There will be a book sale in July on Friday, July 24th and Saturday, July 25th
- The Friends will set up at the Easton Farmers Market with free books and library and Friend's information

Foundation Report:

- Two new members – Steve Kullman and Micky Terrone
- There are funds anticipated to be left over from the St. Michaels renovation; it was suggested that these funds be used for a bookmobile
- Looking for an ex officio member

No Reports: No reports were received from the following:

- County Council Representative
- Teen Liaisons

The board meeting officially closed at 6:25 pm.

Reminder: The next board meeting is Thursday, May 21, 2026, at 5 pm at the Easton Library.

Respectfully submitted, Judy Campbell