



The Lapeer District Library will be the community's destination for resources, education, technology and connection.

**Lapeer District Library  
Regular Meeting of April 17, 2025  
Lapeer Center Building  
Minutes**

**25R.04.01 Call to Order:** 5:30pm by K. Kohlman  
**25R.04.02 Roll Call:**

Bonnie Lawrence	County (Marathon Township)	12/31/2028	Present
Kari Kohlman	County (Deerfield Township)	12/31/2027	Present
Peggy Brotzke	Lapeer Township	12/31/2028	Present
John DeAngelis	County (Metamora Township)	12/31/2027	Present
Perry Valle	County (Metamora Township)	12/31/2025	Present
Carol Brown	Mayfield Township	12/31/2025	Present
Bill Marquardt	City of Lapeer	12/31/2026	Present

**Quorum is 4. There are 7 Board members present.**

Also present are T. Denney (Library Counsel), K. Haight (Technical Director), and J. Gillis (Recorder), members of the press and approximately 50 members of the community.

**25R.04.03 Public Comments:** Five community members spoke.

**25R.04.04 Additions/Deletion/Approval of Agenda:** P. Brotzke requested that an addition of discussion and vote to add a prayer and the pledge to the by-laws under unfinished business. J. DeAngelis requested that the Search Committee be added under new business. K. Kohlman added the introduction of the new board member. P. Valle asked that the action to public comment policy F be changed to no action in new business. P. Valle also requested that the prayer and pledge issues be discussed as two separate items, discussion only as proper procedure has not been followed. Motioned by J. DeAngelis. Seconded by P. Brotzke. Motion passed.

**25R.04.05 Consent Agenda:** The chair summarized the four points of the consent agenda. K. Kohlman and C. Brown requested two corrections to the March Meeting minutes. P. Brotzke motioned. J. DeAngelis seconded. Motion passed.

**Board Reports:**

**25R.04.06 Treasurer:** P. Valle, board treasurer, moved to pay bills from March 21, 2025 – April 17, 2025: Checks 15610-15936 from General Checking for \$37,973.23; from Online Bill Pay for \$11,979.41; and Payroll Checking for \$87,219.73 for a grand total of \$137,172.37. He also mentioned that K. Kohlman and P. Brotzke had a meeting with him regarding the library financials. C. Brown requested information about several items in the check register including content of programs, money paid out to other libraries, the Mideastern Michigan Library Cooperative, penal fines, and employee benefit payments. K. Haight was asked by K. Kohlman to email program details to C. Brown. C. Brown asked why the budget for the Board Per Diem was so low (less than the \$2,000+ that would be required to pay all board members). P. Valle said that historically board members have not asked to be paid the per diem of \$30 per meeting. C. Brown requested per diem. K. Haight has the forms for requesting board per diem. C. Brown also asked about the rent and lease expenses. K. Kohlman motioned to pay the bills. J. DeAngelis seconded. Motion passed

**Committee Reports:** No reports given.

**25R.04.07 Finance**

**25R.04.08 Personnel**

**25R.04.09 Advocacy**

**Lapeer County Report:**

**25R.04.10** No report given.

**Unfinished Business:**

**25R.04.11 Voting Pledge and Prayer (no action, discussion)** P. Valle said that the library serves patrons multiple denominations so prayer would not be appropriate but he has no problem with the pledge. B. Marquardt said City Commission opens with the pledge and if someone wants to say a prayer they can do it during public comment but to begin the meeting with prayer would be inappropriate. P. Brotzke said that they do at the county meetings. Library Counsel, T. Denney, said it was constitutional for a board member to give a prayer before the meeting. K. Kohlman asked if it had to be in the bylaws. Library counsel said that is was not typical to include it in the by-laws. B. Lawrence asked how many libraries have it in their bylaws; not known. C. Brown read an excerpt about the separation of church and state and religious freedom. J. DeAngelis motioned for a vote. P. Valle said that it should be voted on at the next meeting. B. Marquardt said that the pledge and prayer should be separated as they are two different issues and no motion should be made as that was not on the agenda. K. Kohlman said that there will be a vote next meeting one for each issue.

**New Business:**

**25R.04.12 Change public comment policy** (No action, discussion) K. Kohlman said that the library's previous legal counsel, A. Seurynck, pointed out that the Public Comment Policy F was unconstitutional. K. Kohlman said the words disruptive, discourteous, belligerent, and impertinent should be removed

from the policy. The item will be an action item for next month's agenda.

**25R.04.13 New Board Member**—K. Kohlman welcomed B. Lawrence.

**25R.04.14 Search committee**—J. DeAngelis received information from a California company called Summit HR. B. Marquardt replied that the Pivot group, who was used to hire the last director, is contractually obligated to conduct a new director search at no additional charge. The fee for the new firm was \$6500. P. Brotzke would like to use a new firm since our last director did not work out. J. DeAngelis implied that there were problems with the Pivot Group. K. Kohlman said that firm choice will be an action item next meeting.

#### **Staff Reports**

**25R.04.15 Assistant Director for Technical Services** A written report was submitted. P. Brotzke asked about Collection HQ. K. Haight said that it is a service that will tell the library what materials are checking out and what to weed. C. Brown asked about VLC (Valley Library Consortium).

**25R.04.16 Director** No director at this time.

**25R.04.17 Facilities** A written report was submitted.

#### **Communications:**

**25R.04.18** Library Budget, Financial Report and Circulation Report

**25R.04.19** Foster Swift Disengagement Letter

**25R.04.20** Retainer Agreement Rikard, Denney, Leichliter, Childers & Bosch

#### **Friends Report (3-6-9-12)**

**25R.04.21** B. Cloutier, the new Friend's president, said the Friends are a nonprofit and are independent from the library. They support the Marguerite deAngeli branch only. They raised \$14,400 for programming for adults, children and teens and are providing \$20,000 toward the preservation of the Marguerite deAngeli Collection (historical artifacts).

#### **Board Comments or Request for Information:**

**25R.04.22** P. Brotzke said that the board was invited to tour the Child Advocacy Center and to email her if there was any interest in going.

**25R.04.23** B. Marquardt said in respect to the search for a last director, J. DeAngelis erroneously reported to the Lapeer County Tribune that Mike Womack, city manager, was responsible for hiring the last director. J. DeAngelis (at that time) had motioned to accept D. Brigati as the new director. B. Marquardt was in charge of the ad hoc committed to find the new director and there were no problems with the Pivot Group. Choosing from several candidates, the full board interviewed 2 candidates and J. DeAngelis supported the hiring of D. Brigati.

**25R.04.24** B. Lawrence introduced herself. She has two masters from Oakland

University and a B.A. from Michigan State. She has lived in Elba Township for 39 years and has more than 30 years of experience as a teacher. She has volunteered for the Family Literacy Center and also with the Peace Corps for two years. She is an avid reader and library user.

**MMLC Report:**

**25R.04.25** No report given.

**25R.04.26 Public Comments:** Eight community members spoke.

**25R.04.27 Adjournment:** K. Kohlman motioned to adjourn at 7:00pm. Motion passed.

**Regular Meeting: deAngeli Branch Library  
May 15, 2025  
Finance Committee 4:30 p.m.  
Full Board 5:30 p.m.**

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Jan Gillis – Recorder

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Peggy Brotzke – Secretary

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Kari Kohlman– Chair