

# Board of Trustees Meeting Monday June 9, 2025 6:00 pm Board Room

Watch here: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/@bethlehempubliclibrary9609">https://www.youtube.com/@bethlehempubliclibrary9609</a>
Public comments can be submitted here: <a href="https://www.bethpl.org/contact-us/contact-the-director/">https://www.bethpl.org/contact-us/contact-the-director/</a>
Board packet information can be accessed here: <a href="https://www.bethpl.org/board-of-trustees/">https://www.bethpl.org/board-of-trustees/</a>

### Agenda

- Call to order
- Public participation
- Review of previous meeting minutes
- Financial report

Treasurer's update

Personnel report

**Personnel actions** 

- Director's report
- UHLS report
- New business
  - o Request for Reconsideration
  - o Long Range Plan
  - Investment Policy
  - Construction manager proposal boiler project
  - o M/C Salaries
  - o Other new business
- Old business
  - **o** Nominating Committee update
  - o Trustee training
  - o Building Committee update
  - o Board engagement
  - Other old business
- Future business
- Public participation
- Adjournment

Next board meeting: July 14, 2025 6:00 pm (Organizational Meeting) Next Friends of the Library meeting: June 23, 2025 6:30 pm

# MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING BETHLEHEM PUBLIC LIBRARY (BOARD ROOM) DRAFT Monday May 12, 2025

PRESENT: Caroline Brancatella

Laura DiBetta Mark Kissinger Sarah Patterson Gail Sacco Michelle Walsh

Sharon Whiting, library treasurer

Geoffrey Kirkpatrick, director

Kristen Roberts, public information specialist

EXCUSED: Lisa Scoons

GUESTS: Phil Berardi, assistant director/head of operations

Tanya Choppy, accounts clerk

Jennifer Crawford, confidential secretary

Anne Moore Meredith Savitt Robert McDonnell

President M. Kissinger called the budget presentation to order at 6pm.

### **BUDGET PRESENTATION**

- S. Whiting presented the 2025-26 budget to the public. She noted that it represents a 2.61% increase in the levy, which is \$10,000 under the tax cap. Key elements of the budget include contractual salary increases and increases in health insurance costs. Operational costs have remained stable, and the budget includes a built in contingency for emergencies. Interest rates remain fairly high so the library will continue to seek positive investment opportunities.
- M. Kissinger asked how many employees the budget supports. G. Kirkpatrick said the library is fully staffed with 34 full time and 38 part time employees.
- S. Whiting said the budget line for materials has increased to support the purchase of in demand books and electronics.
- C. Brancatella said the library has received a lot of questions about the impact of potential federal funding cuts and noted that while it does not directly affect library operations and the budget, it is a detriment to some of the services the library relies on for support. State funding is expected to be just over \$26,000, a relatively small percentage of the library budget.
- C. Brancatella said that the bulk of the library's budget goes to support the staff and union-negotiated salaries and benefits. G. Kirkpatrick said that the budget also assumes an increase of 12% in health insurance costs. He said the library typically plans for increases of 8% to 10% but in recent years those costs have jumped dramatically. He said it is one of the biggest unknown factors when preparing a budget.

- C. Brancatella also noted that the vote in May is not a building referendum but is a vote for the library's annual operating budget and open trustee seats.
- G. Sacco noted that the library was open 72 hours a week and staff spend a considerable amount of time doing outreach work within the town.
- G. Kirkpatrick described the challenges of purchasing e-materials and the pricing structure but said that is where the biggest demand is.

The board noted that while the library does have a reserve fund that can be used for capital improvements, a significant percentage must be held aside to cover operating expenses from the end of the fiscal year in June until school district taxes are received in the fall.

- M. Walsh said she want to point out the \$185,000 in projected interest earnings for 2024-25 and said that library investments help keep the levy down.
  - M. Kissinger asked those in attendance if they had any comments or questions about the budget.

Delmar resident Anne Moore asked how the library's health insurance worked and whether retirees get the same coverage as staff. The board answered her questions and noted that a further conversation about health care insurance would be discussed later in the meeting.

G. Sacco said she believed the budget going before voters was a good conservative plan and she thanked everyone who worked on it.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

On a MOTION by C. Brancatella with a SECOND by L. DiBetta, the board unanimously voted to adjourn the budget recap at 6:19pm.

President M. Kissinger called the regular meeting to order at 6:20pm.

#### PUBLIC PARTICPATION

There was no further public comment at this time.

### REVIEW OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

On a MOTION by M. Walsh with a SECOND by S. Patterson, the board unanimously approved the minutes from the Monday April 7 regular board meeting.

On a MOTION by L. DiBetta with a SECOND by C. Brancatella, the board unanimously approved the minutes from the Tuesday April 22 building committee meeting.

#### FINANCIAL REPORT

*Treasurer's update* 

S. Whiting presented her report.

On a MOTION by G. Sacco with a SECOND by L. DiBetta, the board unanimously approved the Financial Statement dated 30 April 2025 (Checks disbursed in April 2025 based on preapproval \$57,235.70; Checks disbursed in April 2025 relating to payroll \$208,208.16; Checks being submitted for approval \$140,082.40; CapProject Fund Checks \$28.77; Total: \$405,555.03).

#### PERSONNEL REPORT

The board noted the personnel report. G. Kirkpatrick said he was seeking permission to fill the position of a Librarian 1 who will be leaving in June.

### PERSONNEL ACTIONS

On a MOTION by G. Sacco with a SECOND by S. Patterson, the board unanimously voted to approve the following position:

• Librarian I, full-time, permanent, 35 hours/week, \$60,346/annual or per contract

### DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The board noted the director's report. Additional items:

- Additional seating has been added throughout the library to accommodate growing in-person use. L. DiBetta said it was nice to see all the seats in the teen section full on a recent visit.
- Librarians will be holding a lot of outreach visits at the schools in the coming weeks to promote summer reading.
- There continues to be very high attendance at early literacy programs.
- The HELPS program is expected to sunset at the end of 2026. G. Kirkpatrick said that HELPS has temporarily removed the Civil Service exam requirement for competitive jobs. Applicants must still meet the minimum qualifications. He said it widens the applicant pool and reduces some of the barriers to librarianship.
- There is growing demand for e-materials, and G. Kirkpatrick said he was grateful that Upper Hudson had recognized the trend early on and has spent over a decade growing a broad e-collection.
- C. Brancatella thanked library staff for the digital outreach related to Library Week/Month.
- M. Walsh pointed to the library's robust programming and said it was a great way to share the library's educational and creative resources.

### **UHLS REPORT**

- G. Kirkpatrick noted that the state budget had recently passed and that Upper Hudson gets most of its operational money from state budget. This money is used to provide courier services, the catalog and online system, and more. Chris Sagas was named the new director and will be starting in June.
- G. Kirkpatrick said he will email trustees with the date and time of the annual celebration in June.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

### Trustee office hours

M. Kissinger opened a discussion about the experience and whether to continue holding them. L. DiBetta said it was it was good that the board tried it even though there wasn't much public feedback or participation. She suggested putting out a short survey to find out how people would best like to interact with the board. M. Walsh cautioned that surveys can sometime lead to ambiguous results. She noted that the board is always reachable by email. As board secretary, S. Patterson said she had received and responded to three emails in the past month.

C. Brancatella said that even with the low attendance, interacting with the public provided increased visibility for the board. S. Patterson said the board had also discussed having an informal time to interact with the public before board meetings.

Board members continued to discuss the subject. M. Kissinger suggested trustees continue to think on it and discuss it further at the next meeting. G. Sacco asked if board members could also get name tags.

## *Trustee training*

G. Kirkpatrick said that trustees are required to have two hours of training per year and asked if they preferred to do the training as a group or individually and what they might be interested in. M. Kissinger asked board members to send topics of interest to G. Kirkpatrick. G. Kirkpatrick said he would also forward a list of online training options to board members.

## HVAC repair

- G. Kirkpatrick said the heating system has experienced issues ever since the system overhaul in 2018, which did not fully connect it to other parts of the system that didn't get worked on. A mechanic came in to evaluate the system and identified problems with the air handlers on the roof and some of the other components. They prepared a proposal to fix it through a NYS contract. G. Kirkpatrick said they were needed repairs as they affect the public portions of the building.
- M. Kissinger noted the wording of the proposal that mentions tariffs and asked if the board approved the proposal, would they be on the hook for surprise costs related to tariffs. C. Brancatella said the board should assume that other service contracts with raw materials would include a tariff clause and pay attention to what that might mean.

On a MOTION by M. Walsh with a SECOND by S. Patterson, the board unanimously voted to approve repairs to the library's existing HVAC system not to exceed \$33,589 to be carried out by Trane. If tariffs cause the price to exceed that amount, the board reserves the right to renegotiate.

### Boiler replacement design

M. Kissinger said the building committee had received and considered two boiler design proposals: one from Ashley McGraw and another from CSArch. They are recommending the proposal from CSArch as best addressing the library's needs and cost. G. Kirkpatrick said that all of the references were quite positive, and they also included a timeline that may allow the library to apply for a construction grant to help cover the costs of the project.

On a MOTION by L. DiBetta with a SECOND by M. Walsh, the board unanimously voted to move forward with CSArch as the design consultant for boiler replacement work for an estimated fee of \$24,000.

### Albany County healthcare consortium

G. Kirkpatrick said that Albany County has been directed by the legislature to create a municipal health consortium that would include smaller government entities to help address the drastic increases in health care costs. The library has the opportunity to join the application but the timeline is still up in air. He said it would be easier to drop out of the discussion at any point than to get in at a later date. He noted that this would allow the library to explore this option, but the union would be part of any final decision.

The board discussed the pros and cons of joining the consortium. G. Sacco said that authorizing the library to enter into the discussion does not commit the library to be a part of it. M. Kissinger said he was not comfortable with a blanket authorization and would want the board to be able to review the final proposal before approval. He said he was worried that the union could block non-union members from

their preferred health care insurance choice. He proposed an amendment that would allow the executive committee of the board a final review and decision.

On a MOTION by C. Brancatella with a SECOND by L. DiBetta, the board approved a resolution to allow Library Director G. Kirkpatrick to explore the feasibility of the Albany County Municipal Cooperative Health Benefits Plan with the caveat that any plan must be approved and reviewed by counsel and the executive committee of the board. C. Brancatella, L. DiBetta, S. Patterson, G. Sacco and M. Walsh voted in favor. M. Kissinger voted against.

### Other new business

There was no other new business at this time.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

## Building committee update

C. Brancatella said the committee had discussed the two boiler proposals and arrived at a recommendation. They have determined a list of building priorities and recommend combining the house demolition with parking lot paving as the next project.

#### Other old business

There was no other old business at this time.

#### **FUTURE BUSINESS**

- M. Kissinger said he wanted to remind everyone about the upcoming Friends book sale, as well as the book drop off on Thursday.
  - G. Kirkpatrick said he would send out an email about participation in the Memorial Day parade.

#### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

One member of the public spoke during the public comment period. A recording of the meeting is available on YouTube.

#### ADJOURNMENT

On a MOTION by L. DiBetta with a SECOND by M. Walsh, the board unanimously voted to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:02pm.

Prepared by Kristen Roberts, recording secretary Cosigned by

M. Kissinger, board president

# Treasurer's Report

## June 9, 2025

## Revenue and Expense Report

Revenue is expected to exceed the budget by roughly \$130,000, due in large part to additional interest earnings of about \$80,000 and additional pilot funds received of \$38,000. Total expenses are about 5.6% underbudget, right in line with last year at this time. Salaries are on budget since we are fully staffed. Although there may be some lines that are slightly overspent, this will be more than offset by other lines that are underspent.

### Investments

We are proposing an investment in a deposit placement program with Metropolitan Commercial Bank. This is a program where deposits are invested across multiple banks at no more than the maximum \$250,000 limit for FDIC coverage. The funds are flexible, there is no minimum balance required or limits on withdrawals. It is a permitted investment under NYS general municipal law. The interest rate is very competitive and the flexibility is very attractive, especially with some looming building repair projects.

### Fund Balance

As of June 30, 2024, the fund balance is \$3,928,140. Of this amount, approximately \$1.35 million is needed to fund operations for the first quarter of the year, until tax revenue is received.

Sharon Whiting CPA District Library Treasurer

## CASH & INVESTMENTS SUMMARY

### AS OF 5/31/25

| -                               | <b>BALANCE</b><br>4/30/2025 | RECEIPTS  | DISBURSEMENTS | EARNINGS  | TRANSFERS      | <b>BALANCE</b> 5/31/2025 |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------|---------------|-----------|----------------|--------------------------|
| TD Bank General Fund            | 298,504.97                  | 76,436.45 | (288,360.57)  | (545.95)  | 132,065.88     | 218,100.78               |
| TD Bank Payroll                 | 0.00                        |           | (217,934.12)  | -         | 217,934.12     | 0.00                     |
| TD Bank Money Market            | 1,141,455.44                | -         |               | 1,918.93  | 663,250.16     | 1,806,624.53             |
| TD Bank Treasury Bill           | 1,131,616.40                |           | =             | 3,712.94  | -              | 1,135,329.34             |
| TD Bank Capital Project Fund    | 49,963.01                   | -         | (28.77)       |           | -              | 49,934.24                |
| TD Bank 3 mo. CD Closed 1/28/25 | -                           |           |               | -         | -              | 0.00                     |
| TD Bank 4 mo. CD Closed 5/28/25 | 1,010,253.45                |           |               | 2,996.71  | (1,013,250.16) | 0.00                     |
| TD Bank 6 mo. CD Closed 4/28/25 | -                           |           |               | -         | -              | 0.00                     |
| TD Bank 2 mo. CD Opened 4/28/25 | 1,021,328.60                |           |               | 3,469.72  | -              | 1,024,798.32             |
| Key Bank Checking               | 14,795.50                   | 1,802.38  | (152.41)      |           |                | 16,445.47                |
| TOTAL:                          | 4,667,917.37                | 78,238.83 | (506,475.87)  | 11,552.35 | 0.00           | 4,251,232.68             |

Checks outstanding greater than 90 days old:

General Fund cash balance includes \$18,632\* of Storch Fund money

## **REVENUE & EXPENSE REPORT**

# 11 MONTHS ENDED 5/31/25

FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025

|  | ANNUAL<br>BUDGET<br>2024-2025 | YTD ACTUAL<br>11 MO. ENDED<br>5/31/2025 | Percent<br>YTD<br>5/31/2025 | ANNUAL<br>BUDGET<br>2023-2024 | YTD PRIOR<br>11 MO. ENDED<br>5/31/2024 | Percent<br>YTD<br>5/31/2024 |
|--|-------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| Real Property Taxes                    | 4,592,100                     | 4,591,904                               | 100.0%                      | 4,401,969                     | 4,401,969                              | 100.0%                      |
| PILOT                                  | 239,000                       | 277,968                                 | 116.3%                      | 241,523                       | 239,259                                | 99.1%                       |
| Fines                                  | 3,000                         | 2,338                                   | 77.9%                       | 3,000                         | 2,229                                  | 74.3%                       |
| Interest on Deposits                   | 90,000                        | 164,539                                 | 182.8%                      | 35,000                        | 185,466                                | 529.9%                      |
| Lost Book Payments                     | 8,500                         | 11,471                                  | 135.0%                      | 7,500                         | 11,317                                 | 150.9%                      |
| Friends of BPL Contributions           | 7,000                         | 6,818                                   | 97.4%                       | -                             | 7,903                                  | 0.0%                        |
| Gifts and Donations                    | 8,000                         | 8,004                                   | 100.0%                      | 4,000                         | 18,841                                 | 471.0%                      |
| Photocopier                            | 8,000                         | 12,130                                  | 151.6%                      | 7,000                         | 11,088                                 | 158.4%                      |
| State Aid                              | 26,000                        | 26,362                                  | 101.4%                      | 26,000                        | 25,367                                 | 97.6%                       |
| Grants                                 | -                             | 5,920                                   | 0.0%                        | -                             | -                                      | 0.0%                        |
| Miscellaneous Income                   | 500                           | 640                                     | 127.9%                      | -                             | 1,029                                  | 0.0%                        |
| Total Revenue                          | 4,982,100                     | 5,108,094                               | 102.5%                      | 4,725,992                     | 4,904,467                              | 103.8%                      |
| EXPENSES                               |                               |   |                             |                               |  |                             |
| Salaries                               | 2,666,993                     | 2,442,290                               | 91.6%                       | 2,547,087                     | 2,278,143                              | 89.4%                       |
| Retirement                             | 324,242                       | 323,915                                 | 99.9%                       | 280,440                       | 263,799                                | 94.1%                       |
| Health Insurance                       | 398,000                       | 360,315                                 | 90.5%                       | 372,300                       | 325,772                                | 87.5%                       |
| Other Benefits                         | 238,965                       | 194,224                                 | 81.3%                       | 227,365                       | 189,805                                | 83.5%                       |
| Subtotal Salaries & Benefits           | 3,628,200                     | 3,320,744                               | 91.5%                       | 3,427,192                     | 3,057,519                              | 89.2%                       |
| Library Materials - Print              | 294,000                       | 220,674                                 | 75.1%                       | 292,000                       | 244,904                                | 83.9%                       |
| Library Materials - Electronic & Audio | 281,000                       | 262,633                                 | 93.5%                       | 283,000                       | 225,483                                | 79.7%                       |
| Subtotal Library Material              | 575,000                       | 483,307                                 | 84.1%                       | 575,000                       | 470,386                                | 81.8%                       |
| Operations                             | 643,900                       | 472,282                                 | 73.3%                       | 605,800                       | 532,688                                | 87.9%                       |
| Capital Expenditures                   | 100,000                       | 10,473                                  | 10.5%                       | 100,000                       | 11,023                                 | 11.0%                       |
| Contingency                            | 35,000                        |   |                             | 35,000                        |  |                             |
| Total Expenses                         | 4,982,100                     | 4,286,806                               | 86.0%                       | 4,742,992                     | 4,071,616                              | 85.8%                       |

## **EXPENSES REPORT - DETAIL**

## 11 MONTHS ENDED 5/31/25

FISCAL YEAR 2024 - 2025

|                                       |           |              |                  |                     |                           | _                |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|--------------|------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------|
|                                       | ANNUAL    | YTD ACTUAL   | Percent          | ANNUAL              | YTD PRIOR                 | Percent          |
| Г                                     | BUDGET    | 11 MO. ENDED | YTD<br>5/31/2025 | BUDGET<br>2023-2024 | 11 MO. ENDED<br>5/31/2024 | YTD<br>5/31/2024 |
|                                       | 2024-2025 | 5/31/2025    | 5/31/2025        | 2023-2024           | 5/31/2024                 | 5/31/2024        |
| Salaries & Benefits                   |           |              |                  |                     |                           |                  |
| Salaries-Librarians                   | 1,252,089 | 1,218,624    | 97.3%            | 1,178,184           | 1,131,639                 | 96.0%            |
| Salaries-Support Staff                | 1,226,399 | 1,043,642    | 85.1%            | 1,190,063           | 979,365                   | 82.3%            |
| Salaries-Custodians                   | 188,505   | 180,024      | 95.5%            | 178,840             | 167,139                   | 93.5%            |
| Subtotal Salaries                     | 2,666,993 | 2,442,290    | 91.6%            | 2,547,087           | 2,278,143                 | 89.4%            |
| Retirement                            | 324,242   | 323,915      | 99.9%            | 280,440             | 263,799                   | 94.1%            |
| Health Ins.                           | 398,000   | 360,315      | 90.5%            | 372,300             | 325,772                   | 87.5%            |
| SocSec/Medicare                       | 206,465   | 180,150      | 87.3%            | 194,865             | 168,308                   | 86.4%            |
| Worker's Comp.                        | 20,000    | 12,581       | 62.9%            | 20,000              | 9,735                     | 48.7%            |
| Unemployment                          | 10.000    |              | 0.0%             | 10,000              | 11,083                    | 110.8%           |
| Disability Ins.                       | 2,500     | 1,493        | 59.7%            | 2,500               | 679                       | 27.1%            |
| Subtotal Salaries & Benefits          | 3,628,200 | 3,320,744    | 91.5%            | 3,427,192           | 3,057,519                 | 89.2%            |
| Cubiciai Caiai iso a Doileine         | 0,020,200 | 0,020,       | 011070           | 0,121,102           | 3,00.,0.0                 | 00.270           |
| Library Materials                     |           |              |                  |                     |                           |                  |
| Adult books                           | 171,000   | 133,370      | 78.0%            | 171,000             | 157,730                   | 92.2%            |
| Periodicals                           | 18,000    | 11,598       | 64.4%            | 21,000              | 11,059                    | 52.7%            |
| YS Books                              | 85,000    | 60,089       | 70.7%            | 85,000              | 61,311                    | 72.1%            |
| Special Collections                   | 20,000    | 15,617       | 78.1%            | 15,000              | 14,803                    | 98.7%            |
| Subtotal Print Materials              | 294,000   | 220,674      | 75.1%            | 292,000             | 244,904                   | 83.9%            |
| Audiobooks                            | 20,000    | 14,741       | 73.7%            | 20,000              | 16,494                    | 82.5%            |
| E-Collections                         | 201,000   | 195,556      | 97.3%            | 196,000             | 144,528                   | 73.7%            |
| Electronic Resources                  | 31,000    | 33,187       | 107.1%           | 31,000              | 41,032                    | 132.4%           |
| YS Audiobooks                         | 4,500     | 4,202        | 93.4%            | 4,000               | 3,713                     | 92.8%            |
| YS Media                              | 2,500     | 880          | 35.2%            | 2,000               | 1,189                     | 59.4%            |
| AS Media                              | 22,000    | 14,068       | 63.9%            | 30,000              | 18,527                    | 61.8%            |
| Subtotal Electronic & Audio           | 281,000   | 262,633      | 93.5%            | 283,000             | 225,483                   | 79.7%            |
| Subtotal Library Materials            | 575,000   | 483,307      | 84.1%            | 575,000             | 470,386                   | 81.8%            |
|                                       |           |              |                  |                     |                           |                  |
| Operations                            |           |              |                  |                     |                           |                  |
| Copiers and supplies                  | 15,000    | 15,173       | 101.2%           | 15,000              | 11,147                    | 74.3%            |
| Office supplies                       | 20,000    | 10,885       | 54.4%            | 20,000              | 10,051                    | 50.3%            |
| Custodial supplies                    | 20,000    | 20,116       | 100.6%           | 20,000              | 16,495                    | 82.5%            |
| Postage                               | 22,000    | 16,963       | 77.1%            | 22,000              | 15,686                    | 71.3%            |
| Printing & Marketing                  | 43,200    | 36,869       | 85.3%            | 35,000              | 41,944                    | 119.8%           |
| Van lease & oper.                     | 4,000     | 951          | 23.8%            | 4,000               | 1,841                     | 46.0%            |
| Gas and Electric                      | 75,000    | 65,364       | 87.2%            | 75,000              | 59,267                    | 79.0%            |
| Telecom & Cloud Svcs                  | 24,000    | 21,430       | 89.3%            | 24,000              | 21,449                    | 89.4%            |
| Water                                 | 3,000     | 1,868        | 62.3%            | 3,000               | 2,092                     | 69.7%            |
| Taxes-sewer & water                   | 3,500     | 2,927        | 83.6%            | 3,400               | 2,871                     | 84.4%            |
| Refund property taxes                 | 5,000     | 4,557        | 91.1%            | 5,000               | 3,266                     | 65.3%            |
| Prof. Services                        | 40,000    | 6,172        | 15.4%            | 30,000              | 30,613                    | 102.0%           |
| Contract Services                     | 50,000    | 25,358       | 50.7%            | 50,000              | 21,977                    | 44.0%            |
| Insurance                             | 35,000    | 30,881       | 88.2%            | 30,000              | 29,581                    | 98.6%            |
| Bank Fees                             | 1,700     | 6,038        | 355.2%           | 1,400               | 1,358                     | 97.0%            |
| Travel/Conference                     | 3,500     | 6,681        | 190.9%           | 3,500               | 8,569                     | 244.8%           |
| Memberships                           | 3,000     | 3,648        | 121.6%           | 3,000               | 3,068                     | 102.3%           |
| Special Programs                      | 42,000    | 22,733       | 54.1%            | 35,000              | 38,153                    | 109.0%           |
| Furniture & Equipment                 | 30,000    | 23,917       | 79.7%            | 30,000              | 17,746                    | 59.2%            |
| IT Hardware & Software                | 50,000    | 20,306       | 40.6%            | 50,000              | 50,310                    | 100.6%           |
| Bld & Grnd. Repair                    | 40,000    | 17,189       | 43.0%            | 40,000              | 38,829                    | 97.1%            |
| Furn/Equip Repair                     | 3,000     | 3,820        | 127.3%           | 2,000               | 3,147                     | 157.4%           |
| Miscellaneous                         | 6,500     | 5,210        | 80.1%            | 6,500               | 8,548                     | 131.5%           |
| Audit Service                         | 25,000    | 25,750       | 103.0%           | 24,000              | 19,250                    | 80.2%            |
| Accounting Service                    | 22,000    | 20,065       | 91.2%            | 20,000              | 19,706                    | 98.5%            |
| UHLAN fees                            | 57,500    | 57,412       | 99.8%            | 54,000              | 55,726                    | 103.2%           |
| Subtotal Operations                   | 643,900   | 472,282      | 73.3%            | 605,800             | 532,688                   | 87.9%            |
| Capital Expenditures                  | 100,000   | 10,473       | 10.5%            | 100,000             | 11,023                    | 11.0%            |
| Contingency                           | 35,000    | -            | 0.0%             | 35,000              |                           | 0.0%             |
| , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , | 22,000    |              | 0.073            | 23,000              |                           | 0.070            |
| TOTAL                                 | 4,982,100 | 4,286,806    | 86.0%            | 4,742,992           | 4,071,616                 | 85.8%            |
|                                       |           |              |                  |                     |                           |                  |

# **DISBURSEMENTS SUMMARY**

| CHECKS DISBURSED IN MAY 2025 BASED ON PRE-APPROVAL         | Ş  | 48,284.62  |
|--|----|------------|
| CHECKS DISBURSED IN MAY 2025 RELATING TO PAYROLL           | \$ | 317,927.67 |
| CHECKS BEING SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL                        | \$ | 123,304.04 |
| CHECKS BEING SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL - CAPITAL PROJECT FUND | \$ | -          |





| eck#        | Check Date       | Vendor ID Vendor Name               | PO Number             | Check Amount |
|-------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| 791         | 05/01/2025       | 1831 CDPHP UNIVERSAL BENEFITS, INC. |                       | 36,086.16    |
| <b>'</b> 92 | 05/01/2025       | 720 MVP HEALTH PLAN, INC.           |                       | 7,885.08     |
| 793         | 05/01/2025       | 2340 T-MOBILE                       | 250017                | 1,053.64     |
| <b>'</b> 94 | 05/01/2025       | 1607 VERIZON BUSINESS FIOS          | 250018                | 89.00        |
| <b>'</b> 95 | 05/01/2025       | 1607 VERIZON BUSINESS FIOS          | 250018                | 124.99       |
| <b>'</b> 96 | 05/01/2025       | 1607 VERIZON BUSINESS FIOS          | 250018                | 169.79       |
| 362         | 05/15/2025       | 1607 VERIZON BUSINESS FIOS          | 250018                | 199.99       |
| 363         | 05/15/2025       | 2137 WEX BANK                       | 250012                | 34.23        |
| 364         | 05/21/2025       | 2426 JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA         | *See Detail<br>Report | 2,251.91     |
| 365         | 05/21/2025       | 1607 VERIZON BUSINESS FIOS          | 250018                | 169.79       |
| 366         | 05/23/2025       | 1424 AFLAC NEW YORK                 |                       | 220.04       |
| Number of   | Transactions: 11 |                                     | Warrant Total:        | 48,284.62    |
|             |                  |                                     | Vendor Portion:       | 48,284.62    |

<sup>\*</sup>See Detail Report denotes that multiple purchase orders are referenced on this check. Run the Detail report to view the purchase order information

### **Certification of Warrant**

|                               | by certify that I have verified the above claims, | in number, in the total amount of tified above the amount of each claim allowed |
|-------------------------------|---|---|
| and charge each to the proper | fund.   |   |
|                               |   |   |
|                               |   |   |
|                               |   |   |
| Date                          | Signature   | Title   |

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| Check #  | Check Date         | Vendor ID Vendor Name              | PO Number       | Check Amount |
|----------|--------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 42790    | 05/02/2025         | 712 CIVIL SERVICE EMPL ASSOC INC.  |                 | 957.07       |
| 42861    | 05/16/2025         | 712 CIVIL SERVICE EMPL ASSOC INC.  |                 | 922.08       |
| 42867    | 05/30/2025         | 712 CIVIL SERVICE EMPL ASSOC INC.  |                 | 922.08       |
| 100997   | 05/02/2025         | 709 BPL SPECIAL PAYROLL ACCOUNT    |                 | 71,690.84    |
| 100998   | 05/02/2025         | 710 NYS INCOME TAX BUREAU          |                 | 4,137.60     |
| 100999   | 05/02/2025         | 1946 IRS - PAYROLL TAX PMT         |                 | 22,646.82    |
| 101000   | 05/02/2025         | 2003 NEW YORK STATE DEFERRED       |                 | 2,942.82     |
| 101001   | 05/16/2025         | 709 BPL SPECIAL PAYROLL ACCOUNT    |                 | 71,441.86    |
| 101002   | 05/16/2025         | 710 NYS INCOME TAX BUREAU          |                 | 4,106.36     |
| 101003   | 05/16/2025         | 1946 IRS - PAYROLL TAX PMT         |                 | 22,558.10    |
| 101004   | 05/16/2025         | 2003 NEW YORK STATE DEFERRED       |                 | 3,006.53     |
| 101005   | 05/30/2025         | 709 BPL SPECIAL PAYROLL ACCOUNT    |                 | 74,801.42    |
| 101006   | 05/30/2025         | 710 NYS INCOME TAX BUREAU          |                 | 4,362.80     |
| 101007   | 05/30/2025         | 730 NYS EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTE |                 | 6,582.31     |
| 101008   | 05/30/2025         | 1946 IRS - PAYROLL TAX PMT         |                 | 23,835.55    |
| 101009   | 05/30/2025         | 2003 NEW YORK STATE DEFERRED       |                 | 3,013.43     |
| Number o | of Transactions: 1 | 6                                  | Warrant Total:  | 317,927.67   |
|          |                    |                                    | Vendor Portion: | 317,927.67   |

#### **Certification of Warrant**

|      | eby certify that I have verified the above claims,<br>ereby authorized and directed to pay to the claimants certif<br>fund. | in number, in the total amount of ied above the amount of each claim allowed |
|------|---|--|
|      |   |  |
| Date | Signature   | Title  |

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# Check Warrant Report For A - 46: BILL SCHED (JUN 25) For Dates 6/10/2025 - 6/10/2025



| Check # | Check Date | Vendor ID Vendor Name                       | PO Number             | Check Amount |
|---------|------------|---|-----------------------|--------------|
| 42877   | 06/10/2025 | 30 ALBANY PUBLIC LIBRARY-MAIN BR            | 250643                | 9.00         |
| 42878   | 06/10/2025 | 2420 AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES INC            | 250626                | 6,769.08     |
| 42879   | 06/10/2025 | 2457 AQUATIC ALLIES                         | 250001                | 103.97       |
| 42880   | 06/10/2025 | 2264 B&H FOTO & ELECTRONICS CORP            | 250605                | 150.35       |
| 42881   | 06/10/2025 | 77 BAKER & TAYLOR , INC.                    | *See Detail<br>Report | 14,913.45    |
| 42882   | 06/10/2025 | 1186 BAKER AND TAYLOR ENTERTAINMENT         | 250638                | 14.73        |
| 42883   | 06/10/2025 | 2297 CAPITAL REGION INDEPENDENT MEDIA       | 250602                | 92.00        |
| 42884   | 06/10/2025 | 2078 COUNTY WASTE & RECYCLING SERVICE, INC. | 250003                | 339.21       |
| 42885   | 06/10/2025 | 634 CSLP                                    | 250618                | 325.85       |
| 42886   | 06/10/2025 | 2428 DANIEL MAY                             | 250580                | 40.00        |
| 42887   | 06/10/2025 | 1434 DELL MARKETING L.P.                    | *See Detail<br>Report | 10,463.51    |
| 42888   | 06/10/2025 | 1220 DEMCO, INC                             | 250647                | 160.88       |
| 42889   | 06/10/2025 | 1991 EASTERN MANAGED PRINT NETWORK LLC      | 250005                | 347.84       |
| 42890   | 06/10/2025 | 2528 ERIK BARRAGAN                          | 250608                | 175.00       |
| 42891   | 06/10/2025 | 1627 FARONICS TECHNOLOGIES USA INC.         | 250645                | 925.00       |
| 42892   | 06/10/2025 | 1986 FIRSTLIGHT FIBER                       | 250006                | 191.91       |
| 42893   | 06/10/2025 | 1930 HEWITT'S GARDEN CENTERS INC.           | 250650                | 274.32       |
| 42894   | 06/10/2025 | 2514 JACQUELINE REYNOLDS                    | 250393                | 400.00       |
| 42895   | 06/10/2025 | 2523 JOHN C. DUBOIS                         | 250606                | 300.00       |
| 42896   | 06/10/2025 | 2524 K T TREE SERVICES, INC.                | 250570                | 5,000.00     |
| 42897   | 06/10/2025 | 2322 KANOPY INC.                            | 250014                | 1,333.00     |
| 42898   | 06/10/2025 | 1024 MIDWEST TAPE LLC                       | *See Detail<br>Report | 4,812.96     |
| 42899   | 06/10/2025 | 1921 MOTION PICTURE LICENSING CORP.         | 250627                | 277.32       |
| 42900   | 06/10/2025 | 1961 NATIONAL BUSINESS FURNITURE, LLC       | 250564                | 14,302.49    |
| 42901   | 06/10/2025 | 2148 NORTHEAST PEST CONTROL                 | *See Detail<br>Report | 498.00       |
| 42902   | 06/10/2025 | 2088 NYSID                                  | 250655                | 79.68        |
| 42903   | 06/10/2025 | 2356 OTIS ELEVATOR COMPANY                  | 250651                | 125.00       |
| 42904   | 06/10/2025 | 1823 OVER DRIVE INC.                        | *See Detail<br>Report | 33,097.45    |
| 42905   | 06/10/2025 | 450 PHILLIPS HARDWARE INC                   | 250011                | 233.05       |
| 42906   | 06/10/2025 | 478 QUILL.COM                               | 250636                | 33.18        |
| 42907   | 06/10/2025 | 1490 REPEAT BUSINESS                        | 250150                | 24.49        |
| 42908   | 06/10/2025 | 1951 S & S WORLDWIDE INC.                   | 250629                | 172.37       |
| 42909   | 06/10/2025 | 1633 SAND LAKE TOWN LIBRARY                 | 250630                | 23.00        |
| 42910   | 06/10/2025 | 1439 SMILEMAKERS                            | 250600                | 57.94        |
| 42911   | 06/10/2025 | 2038 STAPLES BUSINESS ADVANTAGE             | *See Detail<br>Report | 674.19       |
| 42912   | 06/10/2025 | 2154 STERICYCLE, INC.                       | 250008                | 23.09        |
| 42913   | 06/10/2025 | 2250 TECH LOGIC CORPORATION                 | 250601                | 1,321.92     |
| 42914   | 06/10/2025 | 2307 TRANE U.S. INC.                        | 250521                | 22,478.00    |
| 42915   | 06/10/2025 | 632 UPPER HUDSON LIBRARY SYSTEM             | 250649                | 360.00       |
| 42916   | 06/10/2025 | 1968 VERIZON WIRELESS                       | 250002                | 100.49       |
| 42917   | 06/10/2025 | 2511 VITAL RECORDS CONTROL                  | 250632                | 64.85        |
| 42918   | 06/10/2025 | 645 W W GRAINGER INC                        | *See Detail           | 1,666.48     |

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## Check Warrant Report For A - 46: BILL SCHED (JUN 25) For Dates 6/10/2025 - 6/10/2025



| Check #     | Check Date          | Vendor ID Vendor Name                              | PO Number       | Check Amount |
|-------------|---------------------|--|-----------------|--------------|
| 42919       | 06/10/2025          | 2182 W.M. BIERS INC.                               | 250652          | 393.00       |
| 42920       | 06/10/2025          | 2015 WATERVLIET PUBLIC LIBRARY                     | 250641          | 10.99        |
| 42921       | 06/10/2025          | 1716 WESTERLO PUBLIC LIBRARY                       | 250609          | 25.00        |
| 42922       | 06/10/2025          | 2044 WMHT  | 250549          | 120.00       |
| Number of   | Transactions: 46    | •  | Warrant Total:  | 123,304.04   |
|             |                     |  | Vendor Portion: | 123,304.04   |
| *See Detail | Report denotes that | at multiple purchase orders are referenced on this |                 |              |
|             | •                   | o view the purchase order information              |                 |              |

| Certification of Warrant   |  |
|--|--|
| To The District Treasurer: I hereby certify that I have verified the above claims, | in number, in the total amount of      |
| \$ You are hereby authorized and directed to pay to the claimants certified        | above the amount of each claim allowed |
| and charge each to the proper fund.  |  |

| Date | Signature | Title |
|------|-----------|-------|

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| June 9, 2025 - Be   | oard of Truste | ee Meeting                         |                               |                                 |                                     |           |                            |        |      |            | 16   |
|---------------------|----------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------|----------------------------|--------|------|------------|------|
|                     |                |                                    |                               |                                 |                                     |           |                            |        |      |            |      |
| Personnel Report    |                |                                    |                               |                                 |                                     |           |                            |        |      |            |      |
| Title               | Dept.          | Current<br>Hours to be<br>Approved | Former<br>Hours if<br>Changed | Salary/Rate                     | Previous or<br>Current<br>Incumbent | End Date  | BOT<br>Approved<br>to Fill | Status | Name | Start Date | Туре |
| Title               | Бери.          |                                    |                               | Salai y/ Nate                   |                                     | Liiu Date |                            | Status | Name | Start Date | Турс |
| Previously Approved | to Fill        |                                    |                               |                                 |                                     |           |                            |        |      |            |      |
| Librarian 1 FT      | Adult Services | 35 hrs/wk                          |                               | \$60,346/annual or per contract | R. Ciancarelli                      | 6/5/2025  | 5/12/2025                  |        |      |            |      |
|                     |                |                                    |                               |                                 |                                     |           |                            |        |      |            |      |
| Action Requested    |                |                                    |                               |                                 |                                     |           |                            |        |      |            |      |
| None                |                |                                    |                               |                                 |                                     |           |                            |        |      |            |      |
| Positions Held      |                |                                    |                               |                                 |                                     |           |                            |        |      |            |      |
| None                |                |                                    |                               |                                 |                                     |           |                            |        |      |            |      |
|                     |                |                                    |                               |                                 |                                     |           |                            | ·      |      |            |      |

# Director's Report June 2025

I am happy to report that the library's budget passed with more than 70% of the voters saying yes to the proposition. Laura DiBetta and Jill Adams were elected as trustees. Thanks to all the candidates that chose to run for the board.

# **Building and Grounds**

A live bedbug was found near the public computers last month. It was quickly dispatched by the staff. The library closed for two days for detection and treatment. Thank you to Sarah from Public Services and Dan from Circulation for the quick detection and alerting the admin team. Biggs the bedbug sniffing dog was on the case quickly, and his companion from Northeast Pest Control was able to treat things quickly. Our regular quarterly visit from Biggs had taken place the previous Thursday, and the library was all clear at that time. This gave us a tight timeline and no other evidence beyond the one bedbug was found.



We are taking this as a learning experience and a test of our procedures. We will increase the frequency of training for all staff and incorporate what we learned going forward.

Three trees were removed from various spots around the property. These trees were struggling and had been attacked by ants. Several were hollow, all were dying and one of them had shed several large branches onto a picnic table. Luckily, no one was sitting there when the branches came down. A new tree has been planted in between lots 1 and 4. We will miss the large shade tree in that area while the new one matures. The maintenance staff will install fabric sun shades to provide some cover in that area.



That the boiler replacement project is only the third most important building development speaks to how things were this month. The boiler replacement contract with CSArch has been executed. Representatives had their first site visit to kick off the project.

## **Youth Services**

Creation Station (5/5 - 5/11) – Drop-in craft in the Children's Place. In celebration of **May the 4<sup>th</sup> Be with You**, this month's craft prompted children to create their own droid robot using colored paper and glue. This program received a good response with many children taking part. Responsible staff: Shannon M. Attendance: 130



Early Literacy Programs (Responsible staff: Dan B., Mary D., Alex D., Shannon M., & Lauren K., Elnora B.)

- Weekly Series
  - o Tiny Tots (2 sessions) Attendance: 49, 48
  - Music and Movement (6 sessions) Attendance: 91, 76, 92, 64, 81,
     59
  - o Family Play Time (2 sessions) Attendance: 27, 10
  - o Family Story Time (2 sessions) Attendance: 34, 14
  - o Pre-K Story Time (3 sessions) Attendance: 28, 31, 15
- Saturday Story Time Series
  - o Saturday Story Time (2 sessions) Attendance: 15, 22
- Sensory Story Time Series
  - o Sensory Play Time (1 session) Attendance: 17
  - o Sensory Story Time (1 session) Attendance: 15

Animal Hospital (5/29) – Children and caregivers enjoyed the Bethlehem Animal Hospital program. Participants brought their favorite stuffed animals to the "checkin" desk, where their animals received their own nametag. After each stuffed animal visited the doctor, participants had a chance to create their own animal mask or color a coloring page. This program was created with the assistance of the Helping Hands Club at Bethlehem Central Middle School.

Responsible staff: Shannon M. Attendance: 15

Lilo & Stitch Party (5/29) – Everyone had a great time at our Lilo and Stitch Party. Participants started out using string, yarn, paper flowers and mini straws to make their own leis. Once everyone was ready, the group got out their maracas and mini ukuleles and we turned up the music for a jam session. We ended the celebration by giving everyone the opportunity to dance through some bubbles and throw around some beach balls. Responsible staff: Shannon M. Attendance: 41

Mother's Day Gift: Painted Flowerpot (5/6) – Participants had the opportunity to create a fun and useful Mother's Day gift. Although the program was aimed at the teen and tween audience, we had an entire family attend the program to paint their own flowerpots. Responsible staff: Lauren K. Attendance: 12

Music and Movement (5/1, 5/6, 5/8, 5/13, 5/15, 5/22) – Attendance continues to stay consistently high for this popular weekly program with a mix of regulars and new faces. Children and caregivers always have a great time dancing to their favorite story time tunes. We were even able to conduct a few sessions outside on the Green due to nice weather. Weekly sessions are now finished until September. However, we have planned a few special outdoor sessions for the summer.

Responsible staff: Alex D., Elnora B. & Lauren K. Attendance: 91, 76, 92, 64, 81, 59

Sensory Play Time (5/30) – May's Sensory Play Time had a good turnout. Participants enjoyed open-ended play while having the opportunity to explore different objects and textures. We plan to start a recurring sensory program for all ages this coming fall. Responsible staff: Shannon M. Attendance: 17

Super Smash Bros. Ultimate Afternoon (5/2, 5/30) – Attendees can join their friends to play Super Smash Brothers Ultimate on the Nintendo Switch. Staff created this program as a way to try and increase teen program attendance at the library. We are off to a slow start, but there seems to be some interested folks who will hopefully continue to join us for future sessions. It is our hope that this program will attract more tweens and teens to the library. Responsible staff: Alex D. Attendance: 0, 8

### **Adult Services**

Bethlehem Senior Disco Party (5/30) – We collaborated with Bethlehem Senior Services, Bethlehem Senior Projects, and the Friends of the Library to put on a 1970's disco themed party with music, dancing, food, and fun at the Bethlehem Town Hall. Everyone had a great time. We received a lot of comments from attendees about how much they loved the decor, and that it was such a fun idea. Kristen was also on hand running a photo station, taking photos, and making prints. The photo station was very popular. We even had people ask if they could still get copies of their pictures after the event was over.

Responsible Staff: Robert, Mary, & Kristen. Attendance: 60









Community Paint Night (5/27) – A painting program where we provided the supplies including acrylic paint, canvas, and brushes along with step-by-step video instruction. Budding painters followed along to create a mountain landscape painting of their own.

Responsible staff: Robert. Attendance: 12







History of the Selkirk Railyard (5/13) – Local history programs continue to be very popular with the community. For this program, Randall Bushart presented a discussion of the development of area railroads that led to the creation of the Selkirk Rail Yard in the town of Bethlehem. The Selkirk Rail Yard was part of a larger project called the Castleton Cutoff that opened in November of 1924, with 2024 marking the project's centennial. Bushart, a Selkirk resident, has worked in the railroad industry for 36 years and is a member of the New York Central Railroad Historical Society. This program was recorded and published on the Library's YouTube channel.

Responsible staff: Luke. Attendance: 81

Day Books: A Hudson Valley Reckoning (5/5) & Author in Person: Debra Bruno (5/8) – We discussed *A Hudson Valley Reckoning: Discovering the Forgotten History of Slaveholding in My Dutch American Family* by Debra Bruno at the May edition of our monthly afternoon book discussion series and then hosted the author who presented at a separate program later in the week. There was a lot of community interest in this particular book and both the discussion and author's presentation were very well received.

Responsible Staff: Erin. Attendance: 20, 40

Listen and Learn with The Hammerhead Horns (5/2) – The Hammerhead Horns, a five-piece group that plays old-time barrelhouse blues, ragtime, New Orleans, swing, R&B, torch ballads and gospel, joined us at the latest installment of our Listen & Learn Friday afternoon program series. In addition to wonderful selections of music from the 1920s through the 1960s, they performed some of their own compositions.

Responsible Staff: Robert & Sarah. Attendance: 60

Macrame Flower Coasters (5/31) – We invited the public to join us for a beginner level craft to make macrame flower coasters. Despite heavy rain that may have kept a few people away, we had a good turnout.

Responsible Staff: Rachael. Attendance: 10

Tech Tuesday: Research It at the Library (5/13) – A virtual program held on Zoom where we discussed the various research databases available through the library including, Novelist, Consumer Reports, Value Line, Data Axle, NYT/TU newspapers, and scholarly research (Gale, Britannica). Following the program, we received a nice email from a patron who participated in the program: "Thank you for your great Zoom presentation this morning. I learned a lot about sources I never used. I am looking forward to using some sites you highlighted and exploring access to medical journals and other health related information." Responsible Staff: Sarah. Attendance: 7

## **Outreach**

Book Share at Peregrine Senior Living at Delmar Place (5/12) – We visited our senior neighbors next door to promote library services, upcoming programs, and, of course, talk about books. It was a great visit and we're looking forward to heading back again soon.

Responsible staff: Robert. Attendance: 14

Bethlehem Children's School (5/29) – Staff visited five classes where they conducted a short story time program. Next, they promoted the 2025 Summer Reading Challenge for the students and teachers who were present. Responsible staff: Elnora B. Attendance: 97

Bethlehem Central High School Tabling (5/15) – Staff tabled at Bethlehem High School to remind students and faculty what the library has to offer. Staff checked out a few games for one student. Others also stopped to see what we had available. Students really enjoyed looking at what the Library of Things had to offer them. Responsible staff: Mary D. Attendance: 119

High School Book Bedazzling (5/14) – BPL staff had a great time taking part in the book bedazzling program at Bethlehem High School. There was a small, but enthusiastic group who attended the event. Participants chose their book and then enhanced the cover with decorations before taking it home to read. Responsible staff: Mary D. Attendance: 8

St. Thomas School (5/28) – Youth Services staff tabled at the St. Thomas School on May 28<sup>th</sup>. We reminded students about the upcoming summer reading program. We also showcased some future library programs and gave away some fun prizes to people who visited our table. The Circulation Department also issued 15 new library cards during the event. Responsible staff: Alex D. Attendance: 125

Walk and Roll Fest (5/17) – Despite weather forecasts predicting clouds and a possible thunderstorm, it turned out to be a beautiful day. Staff handed out the latest edition of Footnotes as well as informational brochures, bookmarks, notepads, stickers, magnets, clips, lanyards, pencils and frisbees. The color-changing pencils and "Kindness Matters" magnets remain the most popular items. We received several "We love the library" comments. Staff also answered questions regarding such subjects as the budget vote, summer reading, and the Library of Things. Responsible staff: Shannon M. Attendance: 92



## **Circulation and Technical Services**

The Circulation Department continued to support Public Services in outreach efforts that extend library access to children in the community. Staff issued a total of 67 new library cards across two school visits.

- St. Thomas the Apostle School: 13 cards prepared in advance and 2 issued on-site
- Elsmere Elementary School (12 classrooms): 37 cards prepared in advance and 15 issued on-site
- 27 registration forms were distributed to the Bethlehem Children's School, laying the groundwork for future engagement.

These outreach efforts reflect the department's ongoing commitment to building strong community connections and supporting equitable access to library resources for youth.

Tonies are screen-free, audio storytelling figures designed for young children. Each figure pairs with a Tonie Box audio player and contains a curated story or musical content, supporting early literacy and independent engagement.

As of June 1, the library owns 92 individual Tonie figures, all added to the collection May 15, 2025. In just over 4 weeks, these items have circulated a total of 130 times, averaging 1.41 checkouts per item despite only being available for part of the reporting period. Many titles have already circulated 2–3 times individually. This strong early performance suggests the Tonie collection fills a gap in our early childhood offerings, aligning well with family borrowing patterns in our community.

# **Meetings and Miscellany**

I attended a meeting hosted by UHLS. Staff from several local nonprofits met with library workers to discuss the best way for libraries to deliver services to people with intellectual disabilities.

Staff members attended a meeting with the web teams from the Friends of the Library and the Humanities Institute for Lifelong Learning. We strategized about the best way to move forward with a robust web presence for these groups.

I attended the organizational meeting of the Albany County REACH healthcare cooperative. Plans are moving forward to apply to the Department of Financial Services for approval to provide health insurance to group members. Plans to have meetings with union representatives as well as trustees over the summer are moving forward.

Geoffrey Kirkpatrick, Library Director

| Library Collection           |        |        |          | 2023-24 | Current Total |
|------------------------------|--------|--------|----------|---------|---------------|
| Adult fiction                |        |        |          | 28,367  | 28,183        |
| Adult non-fiction            |        |        |          | 29,529  | 28,850        |
| Adult audio                  |        |        |          | 5,001   | 4,867         |
| Adult video                  |        |        |          | 7,892   | 7,776         |
| Young adult fiction          |        |        |          | 4,653   | 5,031         |
| Young adult nonfiction       |        |        |          | 611     | 657           |
| Young adult audiobooks       |        |        |          | 290     | 295           |
| Children's fiction           | -      |        | _        | 29,846  | 30,268        |
| Children's non-fiction       |        |        |          | 15,642  | 15,328        |
| Children's audiobooks        |        |        |          | 1,652   | 1,533         |
| Children's video             | -      |        |          | 1,164   | 1,053         |
| OverDrive - UHLS Shared      |        |        |          | 136,558 | 159,719       |
| e-magazines                  |        |        |          | 5,439   | 5,934         |
| Electronic (games, ereaders) | -      |        |          | 385     | 369           |
| Total                        | -      |        | _        | 267,029 | 289,863       |
| Library Programs             | May-25 | May-24 | % change | 2023-24 | F-Y-T-D       |
| Programs                     | 84     | 88     | -4.5%    | 915     | 860           |
| Program attendance           | 2,702  | 2,285  | 18.2%    | 26,209  | 24,760        |
| Outreach Programs            | 9      | 10     | -10.0%   | 104     | 71            |
| Outreach Attendance          | 4,478  | 4,246  | 5.5%     | 17,204  | 12,569        |
| Circulation                  | May-25 | May-24 | % change | 2023-24 | F-Y-T-D       |
| Adult fiction                | 13,459 | 13,188 | 2.1%     | 164,971 | 151,877       |
| Adult non-fiction            | 6,755  | 7,009  | -3.6%    | 85,990  | 75,666        |
| Adult audio                  | 6,813  | 6,149  | 10.8%    | 69,337  | 70,190        |
| Adult video                  | 4,877  | 4,631  | 5.3%     | 67,542  | 58,933        |
| Magazines                    | 3,000  | 2,695  | 11.3%    | 30,266  | 29,371        |
| Young adult fiction          | 1,259  | 1,350  | -6.7%    | 17,921  | 16,405        |
| Young adult nonfiction       | 107    | 85     | 25.9%    | 1,484   | 1,049         |
| Young adult audiobooks       | 309    | 315    | -1.9%    | 3,384   | 3,129         |
| Children's fiction           | 11,115 | 10,485 | 6.0%     | 147,338 | 135,923       |
| Children's non-fiction       | 3,017  | 3,116  | -3.2%    | 37,789  | 34,053        |
| Children's audiobooks        | 1,328  | 1,256  | 5.7%     | 16,153  | 15,159        |
| Children's video             | 247    | 347    | -28.8%   | 6,059   | 4,398         |
| Electronic (games, ereaders) | 533    | 568    | -6.2%    | 8,428   | 6,325         |
| Total                        | 52,819 | 51,194 | 3.2%     | 656,662 | 602,478       |
| Interlibrary Loan            | May-25 | May-24 | % change | 2023-24 | F-Y-T-D       |
| Borrowed from others         | 5,451  | 5,392  | 1.1%     | 72,475  | 62,096        |
| Loaned to others             | 4,384  | 4,483  | -2.2%    | 55,610  | 52,037        |
| Miscellaneous                | May-25 | May-24 | % change | 2023-24 | F-Y-T-D       |
| Visits to our home page      | 41,245 | 29,553 | 39.6%    | 454,330 | 361,097       |
| Public use of meeting rooms  | 25     | 27     | -7.4%    | 395     | 376           |
| Public meeting attendance    | 283    | 400    | -29.3%   | 4,901   | 3,973         |
| Staff use & library programs | 60     | 75     | -20.0%   | 861     | 757           |
| Study room sessions          | 493    | 439    | 12.3%    | 4,846   | 4,767         |
| Tech room/ Studio use        | 5      | 6      | -16.7%   | 97      | 85            |
| Door count                   | 17,081 | 17,229 | -0.9%    | 221,744 | 209,786       |
| Registered BPL borrowers     | 129    | 61     | 111.5%   | 1,095   | 1,187         |
| Computer signups             | 1,154  | 1,142  | 1.1%     | 14,751  | 14,914        |
| Museum Pass use              | 121    | 127    | -4.7%    | 1,359   | 1,365         |
| E-book use                   | 7,086  | 6,573  | 7.8%     | 75,317  | 72,557        |
| E-audiobook use              | 6,570  | 5,816  | 13.0%    | 62,498  | 65,776        |
| E-magazine use               | 2,855  | 2,455  | 16.3%    | 27,587  | 27,000        |
| Streaming video use          | 1,713  | 1,267  | 35.2%    | 17,158  | 19,281        |
| BCSD use via Overdrive       | 387    | 514    | -24.7%   | 2,197   | 2,654         |
| Equipment                    | 481    | 331    | 45.3%    | 4,625   | 4,304         |
| Wireless Use                 | 10,506 | 9,598  | 9.5%     | 112,669 | 106,181       |

### **INVESTMENT POLICY**

Policy adopted by the Board of Trustees October 14, 1997
Policy revised December 12, 2005
Policy revised February 10, 2014
Policy revised August 12, 2019
Policy revised November 12, 2019
Policy reviewed May 9, 2022
Policy revised June, 9, 2025

### Scope

This investment policy applies to all monies and other financial resources available for deposit and investment on the Bethlehem Public Library's own behalf.

The Board of Trustees relied upon information contained in the General Municipal Law and in the "Local Government Management Guide", dated as of August 2014 and published by the Office of the New York State Comptroller in drafting this policy.

## **Objectives**

The primary objectives of Bethlehem Public Library's investment activities are, in priority order:

- 1. conform with all applicable federal, state and other legal requirements;
- 2. adequately safeguard principal;
- 3. provide sufficient liquidity to meet all library operating requirements; and,
- 4. obtain a reasonable rate of return.

## **Delegation of Authority**

The Board of Trustees' responsibility for administration of the investment program is delegated to the Treasurer, who shall establish written procedures for the operation of the investment program consistent with this investment policy. Such procedures shall be approved by the Board of Trustees and shall include an adequate internal control structure to provide a satisfactory level of accountability. In addition, the internal control procedures shall describe the responsibilities and levels of authority for key individuals involved in the investment program.

### **Prudence**

All participants in the investment process shall seek to act responsibly as custodians of the public trust and shall avoid any transaction that might impair public confidence in the Bethlehem Public Library to operate effectively.

Investments shall be made with prudence, diligence, judgment and care, under circumstances then prevailing, which knowledgeable and prudent persons acting in like capacity would use,,not for speculation, but for investment, considering the safety of the principal as well as the probable income to be derived.

All participants involved in the investment process shall refrain from personal business activity that could conflict with proper execution of the investment program or impair their ability to make impartial investment decisions.

### **Diversification**

It is the policy of the Bethlehem Public Library to consider diversifying its deposits and investments by financial institutions, by investment instrument, and by maturity scheduling.

#### **Internal Controls**

All monies collected by any officer or employee of Bethlehem Public Library shall be deposited within seven days of receipt, or within the time limit specified in law, whichever is shorter; a record of such deposit shall be conveyed to the Business Manager.

The Treasurer, in coordination with the Board of Trustees, is responsible for establishing and maintaining an internal control structure to provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance that deposits and investments are safeguarded against loss from unauthorized use or disposition, that transactions are executed in accordance with management's authorization, properly recorded, and managed in compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

## **Designation of Depositories**

The banks and trust companies authorized for the deposit of monies, and the maximum amount which may be kept on deposit at any time are:

| Depository name              | Maximum Amount |  |  |  |
|------------------------------|----------------|--|--|--|
| Metropolitan Commercial Bank | \$8,000,000    |  |  |  |
| TD Bank                      | \$8,000,000    |  |  |  |
| M&T Bank                     | \$8,000,000    |  |  |  |
| Key Bank                     | \$8,000,000    |  |  |  |
| NBT Bank                     | \$2,000,000    |  |  |  |
| Pioneer Bank                 | \$ 250,000     |  |  |  |

## **Collateralizing of Deposits**

All deposits and investments of the Bethlehem Public Library, including all demand deposits, certificates of deposit and special time deposits, that are in excess of the amount insured under the provisions of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act, including pursuant to a Deposit Placement Program in accordance with law, shall be secured by:

- 1. A pledge of "eligible securities" with an aggregate "market value" as provided by General Municipal Law (GML) Section 10, that is at least equal to the aggregate amount of deposits from the categories designated in SubSection F of GML Section 10.
- 2. A pledge of a pro rata portion of eligible securities, having in the aggregate a market value at least equal to the aggregate amount of deposits.
- 3. An irrevocable letter of credit issued in favor of the Bethlehem Public Library by a federal home loan bank whose commercial paper and other unsecured short-term obligations are rated in the highest rating category by at least one nationally recognized rating organization, as security for the payment of 100 percent of the aggregate amount of deposits and the agreed-upon interest, if any.

## Collateralization and Safekeeping

Eligible securities used for collateralizing deposits shall be held by the depository and/or third party bank or trust company subject to security and custodial agreements in accordance with the provisions of General Municipal Law Section 10.

#### **Permitted Investments**

As provided by General Municipal Law Section 11, the Bethlehem Public Library authorizes the Treasurer, the Director or the Business Manager to invest monies not required for immediate expenditure for terms not to exceed its projected cash flow needs in the following types of investments:

- 1. Special time deposit accounts
- 2. Certificates of deposit
- 3. Obligations of the United States of America (limited to T Notes and T Bills)
- 4. Deposit Placement Programs

### **Authorized Financial Institutions**

All financial institutions with which the Bethlehem Public Library transacts business shall be creditworthy. The Treasurer is responsible for evaluating the financial position and maintaining a list of proposed depositories, trading partners and custodians. Such listing shall be evaluated annually by the Treasurer and approved by the Board of Trustees.

The Bethlehem Public Library shall maintain a list of financial institutions approved for investments and establish appropriate limits to the amount of investments that can be made with each financial institution or dealer.

## **Annual Review and Amendments**

The Bethlehem Public Library Board of Trustees shall review this investment policy annually, and shall have the power to amend this policy at any time.