

**LORAIN PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM
LORAIN, OHIO**

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, October 16, 2025

President Ramirez called the meeting to order at 4:58 p.m. President Ramirez asked if any Board members had a conflict with the agenda. No Trustees indicated a conflict with the business for this evening.

Roll Call – Ms. Ramirez, yes; Mr. White, yes; Ms. Torres, yes; Mr. Ackerman, yes; Ms. Snipes-Martin, Excused; Mr. Byrne, Excused; Ms. Thompson, yes

#2025-063 Approval of September 18, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes

Mr. Ackerman moved, Ms. Torres seconded to approve the September 18, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes.

Roll Call for Resolution #2025-063: yeas, unanimous

#2025-064 Approval of September 2025 Fiscal Officer Report

Mr. White moved, Ms. Torres seconded to approve the September 2025 Fiscal Officer Report.

Chief Fiscal Officer Angney attended the Lorain County Budget Commission meeting on September 30. The County Auditor mentioned the potential for a return of funds previously withheld for auditor and treasurer fees due to savings realized during the most recent revaluation. Anticipates sending with the first settlement of 2026. CFO Angney also attended the Ohio Association of Public Treasurer's Fall Conference October 9-11. Sessions included case studies of recent fraud cases, artificial intelligence, management and leadership. CFO Angney will attend the SSI Fall Conference in Sandusky October 22-24, topics centered around the SSI/VIP accounting system and analytics package. IT has received a fix from the vendor regarding pulling down transactional data from the Kiosks and they were able to create reports for missing periods June-September. The Finance, Audit, and Properties Committee met on October 14 to discuss forecast and proposed levy for the Domonkas Branch and recommended request to be submitted to City of Sheffield Lake.

Action Items:

- Supplemental appropriation fund 201 - \$1,200
- Approve the Tax Levy Amounts and Rates as Determined by the Budge Commission and Authorizing Necessary Tax Levies and Certifying them to the County Auditor

- Resolution Requesting the City of Sheffield Lake to Submit to the Electors in the Entire Territory of the City the Question of a Replacement Tax for the Benefit of The Lorain Public Library System for the Purpose of Current Expenses of The Lorain Public Library System, including the Operation of a Branch Library located in the City.

Roll Call for Resolution #2025-064: yeas, unanimous

Report of the Director

Director Diamond-Ortiz shared the Program of Work document with the board providing an update on various goals that have been completed or are in the process of completion. Director Diamond-Ortiz shared that Staff Development Day was a success and thanked Mr. Ackerman for attending. Director Diamond-Ortiz reminded the board about HB137 as well as the reduction in funding from the County Commissioners. Director Diamond-Ortiz shared information on the upcoming gala for El Centro as well as the luncheon for Urban League and asked if any of the board members wanted to attend either event. Director Diamond-Ortiz thanked Michael Ronga for all of his hard work as HR Manager and wished him well. Mr. Ackerman also thanked Michael Ronga for his work and dedication to LPLS.

Mr. Ackerman asked COO Jennifer Winkler to share about the Support Wellbeing Grant from University Hospitals. In partnership with Lorain County Public Health (LCPH) and Second Harvest Food Bank, LPLS plans to apply for a Sponsorship and Support Wellbeing Grant from University Hospitals to expand its culinary literacy programs and reach more vulnerable and underserved populations. The initiative would partner with the UH Pediatric Center in Lorain and Lorain City Schools to create a referral system connecting low-income and BIPOC families to LPLS's Kids Cook series to help families build confidence in their cooking skills and make healthier food choices. Together, LCPH and LPLS would develop the referral process and establish evaluation metrics. The grant would also fund culinary kits with essential tools and pantry staples, support staff time for expanded programming, and strengthen connections between the library and healthcare providers by helping families access preventive health services and primary care.

The Library is respectfully requesting that the Foundation of the Lorain Public Library System apply for this grant to serve as the fiscal agent on behalf of LPLS and LCPH.

Committee Reports

Finance, Audit and Properties Committee – Mr. White reported that the committee met on October 14 and discussed the Sheffield Lake 2.2 mil replacement levy for operating expenses. Committee recommended adoption of resolution to authorize City of Sheffield submit request to electors.

Library Services and Personnel Committee – None

Trustee Development and Nominating Committee – None

Friends of the Library –

- The Friends of the Domonkas Library hosted a highly successful Book Sale at the end of September, raising more than \$700 thanks to the incredible generosity of the community.
- The Friends of the Lorain Public Library, Inc Book Sale was a great success raising approximately \$2000! Despite ongoing construction, staff and the Friends worked together to ensure everything came together smoothly. The Friends were incredibly accommodating and understanding throughout the process.
- As in past years, the Friends of the Lorain Public Library generously donated funds so that every child visiting from Lorain Bilingual Academy could take home a book from the sale—a gesture that continues to make a meaningful impact on young readers.
- The Friends of the Columbia Library, Inc. hosted a very successful *Donate While You Dine* campaign with four local area restaurants raising a total of \$832.
- Due to the continued success of the Friends of the Avon Library's Book Fairs, the donation room is now open every Saturday during regular library hours, giving community members the opportunity to browse and donate year-round

Upcoming Friends Events

- **Friends of North Ridgeville Branch Library Book Sale**
Friday, October 24 – Sunday, October 26
Preview Night: Thursday, October 23, 5–7:30 p.m.
- **Friends of Avon Library Book Fair**
Saturday, November 15, 10:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.
- **Friends of the Columbia Library, Inc. Second Annual Bingo**
Wednesday, Dec. 3 from 6 to 9 p.m.
Columbia Fraternal Order of Eagles, 27201 Royalton Road.
There will be a cash bar, raffle baskets, a 50/50 raffle and cash prizes!

Mr. White thanked COO Winkler for the 600 books that were donated to Lorain City Schools. Books are being sorted by the high school students and will be given to K-5 classrooms. COO Winkler mentioned that it was a team effort from the Columbia Branch (Branch Manager Kelsey DeCoste).

Foundation of the Lorain Public Library System – Mr. Ackerman mentioned they met in September and that all is well with the Foundation and he reminded everyone that staff can file for a grant from the Foundation to help with programming, etc.

Audience Participation

Donna Kelly-Sprinkle, Branch Manager

- Spring program planning
- Community engagement outreach – North Coast Rotary
- Avon Democratic Club – Dr. Amy Acton was at the Avon branch with approximately 100 people in attendance

New Business

Consent Agenda

#2025-065 to #2025-067

#2025-065 Approval of Personnel Appointments in September.

APPOINTMENTS								
NAME	POSITION	DATE	PT/FT/ TEMP HOURS	GRADE/ STEP	SALARY	DEPT/ BRANCH	NEW HIRE/ CURRENT STAFF	REASON FOR CHANGE
Britta Will	Public Services Professional	9/22/2025	FT 38	UI	\$23.90/hr.	Domonkas	Current Staff	Replaces Elizabeth Collins
Loretta Novakovic	Administrative Assistant	10/15/2025	PT 25	Grade C	\$16.92/hr.	Main	New Hire	Replaces Kathy Niehm

#2025-066 Resolution to modify 2025 Annual Appropriations Fund 201 Local Grant Fund supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$1,200.

#2025-067 Resolution to Approve the Tax Levy Amounts and Rates as Determined by the Budget Commission and Authorizing Necessary Tax Levies and Certifying them to the County Auditor.

Ms. Torres moved, Mr. Ackerman seconded approval of all Consent Items #2025-060 to #2025-061.

Roll Call for all Consent Items #2025-065 to #2025-067: yeas, unanimous

#2025-068 RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SHEFFIELD LAKE, LORAIN COUNTY, OHIO, TO REQUEST THAT THE LORAIN COUNTY AUDITOR CERTIFY THE CURRENT TAX VALUATION OF THE CITY OF SHEFFIELD LAKE, LORAIN COUNTY, OHIO AND THE DOLLAR AMOUNT OF REVENUE TO BE GENERATED BY A NEW TAX LEVY; AND TO SUBMIT TO THE ELECTORS OF THE CITY THE QUESTION OF A NEW LEVY FOR CURRENT OPERATING EXPENSES OF THE DOMONKAS BRANCH OF THE LORAIN PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM

Mr. Ackerman moved, Mr. White seconded to approve the RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SHEFFIELD LAKE, LORAIN COUNTY, OHIO, TO REQUEST THAT THE LORAIN COUNTY AUDITOR CERTIFY THE CURRENT TAX VALUATION OF THE CITY OF SHEFFIELD LAKE, LORAIN COUNTY, OHIO AND THE DOLLAR AMOUNT OF REVENUE TO BE GENERATED BY A NEW TAX LEVY; AND TO SUBMIT TO THE ELECTORS OF THE CITY THE QUESTION OF A NEW LEVY FOR CURRENT OPERATING EXPENSES OF THE DOMONKAS BRANCH OF THE LORAIN PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM

Roll Call for Resolution #2025-068: yeas, unanimous

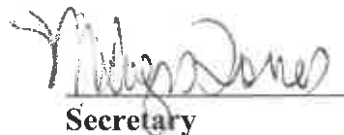
Other Agenda Items

Strategic Plan Discussion

Mr. Ackerman shared the draft Values, Vision, Mission and 2026-2028 Goals that were created from the Board Retreat on September 13. COO Winkler provided an update and documents on the strategic plan and shared that a Strategic Plan Leadership Workshop is scheduled for October 22 at the Avon Branch. This workshop will bring together leaders at all levels of the organization to participate in collaborative discussions and exercises focused on shaping the goals and objectives of our next Strategic Plan. Monthly updates will be provided at the board meetings as the process continues. The board members reviewed and discussed the documents. COO Winkler asked the board if they had any changes or updates to the Values, Vision, Mission and Goals. None were provided. Strategic Plan was approved by the Board.

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:37 p.m.

ATTEST:


President
Secretary

