

**RICE LAKE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF**

Tuesday, February 10th, 2026

Rice Lake Public Library

2 E. Marshall St., Rice Lake, WI 54868

Members Present: Pat Edwardsen, Abbey Fischer, Melissa Kozma, Tim Ploetz, Marsha Scherz, and Gina Sookiayak

Members Absent: Jane Thompson and Vicky Ondell

Others Present: Rachel Thomas, Library Director and Shelby Friendshuh, Public Services Director

Call to Order: Abbey Fischer called the meeting to order at 4:02 pm.

Public Appearances: None

Approval of the January 2026 Meeting Minutes: Marsha Scherz made a motion to approve the minutes with corrections; Pat Edwardsen seconded the motion. Minutes approved by the Board.

Review and Approval of January Bills: Motion to approve bills made by Gina Sookiayak, seconded by Melissa Kozma. Roll call vote: unanimous approval by all trustees in attendance.

Review of Financial Statements from January 2026: Director Thomas and the Board discussed the need to check up on some calculations made by the City. The City is behind in updating some data, and the Board also wants to make sure recent changes to interest rates have been accounted for. Director Thomas will follow up on these matters and share any updates with the Board.

Review of January 2026 Library Statistics: The library had an average of 308 visits per day in January. There were 54 new library patrons, and 421 items added to library collections. There were 511 computer sessions, and 120 meeting room uses. 17 items were checked out via the library locker.

Review of Library Director's Report: January library programming highlights included a visit by author Joshua Shores, and a presentation by Academic Librarian Jennifer Duvall about the UWEC - Barron County campus library's Valuable Patron Program. This program is open to all community members.

The library is kicking off a Community Read program, inviting all members of our community to read *Into Thin Air* by Jon Krakauer. An alternative book for younger fiction readers is *One Wrong Step* by Jennifer Nielsen. You can find free copies of the books in displays set up in the library, as well as five

locations around town: Badger Brew, The Old Bookshop, Northwoods Cycle, Jacobson's Ace Hardware, and The Milk Pail. Pick one up to read, then pass it on!

Shelby Friendshuh joined the meeting at 4:54 pm.

Friends of the Rice Lake Public Library updates: At the Friends Annual Meeting in January, Linda Tollesfrud spoke about her trek along the Camino Santiago. The Friends will not be meeting again until March.

Discussion and Approval of 2025 Annual Report: Director Thomas shared highlights and explained some details of the Library's 2025 report. Pat Edwardsen made a motion to approve the report, and Marsha Scherz seconded the motion. Motion approved by the Board.

Adjournment: Marsha Scherz made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Gina Sookiayak seconded the motion. Abbey Fischer adjourned the meeting at 5:48 pm.

The next meeting of the Library Board of Trustees is scheduled for Tuesday, March 10th, 2026.

Minutes prepared by Melissa M. Kozma.