**RICE LAKE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES**
**MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF**
**Tuesday, August 11th, 2026**
Rice Lake Public Library
2 E. Marshall St., Rice Lake, WI 54868

**Members Present:** Melissa Kozma, Jeff Miller, Vicky Ondell, Kyle Polzin, and Gina Sookiayak

**Members Absent:** Pat Edwardsen, Abbey Fischer, and Andrea Thompson

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

**Call to Order:** Vice President Gina Sookiayak called the meeting to order at 4:01 pm.

**Public Appearances:** None.

**Approval of the July 2026 Meeting Minutes:** Jeff Miller made a motion to approve the minutes, and Vicky Ondell seconded the motion. July 2026 meeting minutes approved by all board members present.

**Review and Approval of July 2026 Bills:** Vicky Ondell made a motion to approve the July 2026 bills; Melissa Kozma seconded the motion. Roll call vote: approved by all Board members present.

**Review of July 2026 Financial Statements:** Director Thomas updated the Board on the RLPL's most recent financial statements.

**Review of July 2026 Library Statistics:** It was a steadily busy July for the library. Checkouts increased 12%, and visitor counts are also higher than last year at this time. Meeting rooms continue to be quite popular.

**Review of Library Director's Report:** Highlights of Library programming in July included the Community Reading goal being met; a culture share with students from Mirahu, Japan; a Dinosaur story time; and a special picture book story time with the Northwoods String Quartet. Director Thomas shared that 155 Community Surveys were submitted in July, and that she will give a more detailed report at the next Board meeting.

**Friends of the Rice Lake Public Library updates:** The Friends did not meet in August.

**Briefing Report: Library Fees (Action):** Vicky Ondell made a motion to approve the Library fees and policy changes as presented by Director Thomas. Motion seconded by Kyle Polzin. Motion passed.

**Everbrite Presentation (Action):** Following a presentation by Shelby Friendshuh, Gina Sookiayak made a motion to purchase an Everbrite display using no more than 30K from Fund 28, and other funding sources as needed. Vicky Ondell seconded the motion. Roll call vote: unanimous approval by all Board members present.

**Vice President Officer Election:** This action was deferred to the September meeting, when more Library Board members will be present.

**Review 2027 Budget Fund 28:** Director Thomas explained the workings of Fund 28 to new Board members, and then discussed some small changes made to this fund for 2027. At the next meeting, the Board will review and approve the 2027 budget for Fund 28 and Fund 48.

**Celebration**: The Board celebrated member Gina Sookiayak, as this is her last meeting.

**Adjournment:** Gina Sookiayak adjourned the meeting at 6:05 pm.

The next meeting of the Library Board of Trustees is scheduled for September 8th, 2026.

Minutes prepared by Melissa M. Kozma.