September 1, 2026
Marion Public Library Board of Trustees
Budget Workshop

Attendance

Board and Invited Attendees	Present Kerry Sargent, President Melanie Rivera, Vice President Joanna Meyer, Secretary Samantha Buss, Library Board Trustee Gail Stoddart, Library Board Trustee Tracy Whitney, Library Manager	Absent Mary Johnnson, Town Board Co-Liason Margi Taber, Town Board Co-Liaison
Other Attendees	There were no other attendees.	

The meeting was called to order by Kerry at 6:37pm.

1. Public Comment: no members of the public were present beyond the library manager and Board trustees.
2. Budget Discussion:
    a. Tracy provided the 2025 year-end report as well as the 7/31/26 report for the Board members to review along with the outline of the 2027 budget.
    b. Board Trustees reviewed the proposed budget with Tracy, with some suggestions for changes.
        i. Breaking out “unallocated insurance” into 2 separate lines, “renter’s insurance” and Directors and Officers Insurance.
        ii. Break the circulation line into multiple lines to better align with required state reporting, thus eliminating additional work for the Library Manager.
    c. Due to increases in general costs (particularly medical insurance and utilities), as well as annual anticipated increases in payroll, the Trustees discussed moving forward with requesting an increase in the tax levy in 2027 for the 2028 budget year. Trustees also discussed this becoming a more annual occurrence, as smaller increases may be more “palatable” to the community than larger increases in the tax levy. Board trustees acknowledged the importance of attempting to remain below the tax cap when possible.
    d. Medical insurance costs continue to rise and are estimates only for the 2027 year at this time. The Trustees suggested that monies be moved from the circulation line in order to cover

projected increases, with hopes that grants and donations could be allocated toward circulation materials to cover this decrease.

e. The equipment budget line within the $250,000 budget was decreased to $0. Although no specific equipment needs are anticipated at this time, any operational equipment needs would be funded by removing money from the equipment reserve fund.

f. Tracy was asked to leave the meeting with Trustees discussed suggested compensation for 2027 and beyond. Trustees reviewed the salaries of other Wayne County Library Managers, as well as the potential differences between a “longevity bonus” and a flat pay with guaranteed increases. Following discussion, the Trustees agreed to propose a new salary to Tracy, with 3% increases following for 2028, 2029 and 2030.

g. Tracy was asked to reenter the meeting and was in agreement with the suggested change. The Trustees will draft a new agreement with Tracy to remove the longevity bonus in lieu of the salary increase for 2027 and 3% increases for the following 3 years.

h. Tracy shared thoughts regarding future thoughts for the library and the desire to create a youth services manager to shift some of the youth services planning away from the Library Manager.

3. Adjournment: Motion to adjourn was made by Kerry, seconded by Samantha. Meeting adjourned at 8:20pm.

Respectfully submitted by Joanna Meyer, secretary.

Upcoming dates:
September 15, 2026 at 6:30pm: Regular Library Board meeting
October 3, 2026 from 9-3pm: Friends of the Marion Public Library Book Sale, Community Room.
October 20, 2026 at 6:30pm: Regular Library Board meeting
November 17, 2026 at 6:30pm: Regular Library Board meeting