Library Board Meeting

2nd Floor Admin Office
126 E Main St
Ionia, MI 48846

October 21, 2026

Minutes

Call to Order: President Yeomans called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Members Present: Toni Ann Buys, Amy Fuller, Isaac Magley, Ashley Reisbig and Gale Yeomans

Members Absent: Kyle Ondersma

Other Attendees: Director Dale Parus, Manager of Library Operations Paula Wood and Union Representative Shanni Kerr

Approval of Agenda: Motion by Fuller to approve the agenda with the addition under New Business of the Future Ionia Community Library Budget Estimate, supported by Reisbig. Motion carried unanimously.

FY 2025-2026 Audit Report: Matt Vredeveld presented the audit to the board and noted that the ICL continues to receive the highest opinion that can be given on an audit. The report states:

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities and the major fund of the Library, as of June 30, 2026, and the respective changes in financial position for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Motion by Yeomans, supported by Reisbig to accept the FY 2025-2026 audit report by Vredeveld Haefner LLC. Motion carried unanimously.

Previous Minutes: Motion by Fuller to accept the September 15, 2026 meeting minutes, supported by Buys. Motion carried unanimously.

Financial Reports: The September 2026 financial reports were received and filed.

Public Comment: None.

Director's Report & Statistics Report: The Director's Report and the September Statistical Report were received and filed.

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Committees:
--*Finance Committee:* No report.
--*Personnel Committee (Yeomans, Buys & Parus):* No report.
--*Policy Committee (Miller, Buys, Parus & Kerr):* No report.
--*Building and Grounds Committee (Fuller, Reisbig & Parus):* No report.
--*Grant Committee (Yeomans, Reisbig & Parus)*: No report.

Continuing Business:
--*Ionia Community Library Foundation (ICLF):*

- $1.5 M Grant Awarded from the Make It in Michigan Competitiveness Fund - $100,000 needed to match the $2.1 M Federal Grant through the USDA RD and then the project can begin.
- Roosevelt Fundraiser had approximately 58 people in attendance. Huge thanks to presenters Larry and Julia Marple, who portrayed a biographical program of President Theodore Roosevelt and Edith Roosevelt. Their presentation was engaging and very educational.

--*USDA Rural Development:*

- The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) provided ICL SHPO's conditional approval of the conceptual drawings.
- The USDA RD was notified of the $1.5 M Grant awarded to ICL from the Make it in Michigan Competitiveness Fund. The grant will be administered by the Labor and Economic Opportunity (LEO) Department.
- Updated information was submitted to the USDA RD for the project with a projected start date of June 2027.

New Business:

--*Make it in Michigan Competitiveness Fund Grant:* The Ionia Community Library has been awarded $1.5 M to renovate the former Mercantile Bank building into the new Ionia Community Library. The new library will offer space for workforce training, meetings, tutoring, collaborative learning and digital skills development. The project leverages $2.1 M in Congressionally Directed Spending secured by Senator Peters from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development Community Facilities Program and $500,000 raised by the community.

--*Updated Construction Costs for FICL:* Parus explained the updated construction costs for a June 2027 start date for the Future ICL renovation project.

Announcements: None.

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Adjournment: **Motion** to adjourn by Fuller, supported by Buys. Motion carried unanimously. Yeomans adjourned the meeting at 7:07 PM. The next regularly scheduled Board meeting is 6 PM Wednesday, November 18, 2026.

Respectfully Submitted,

Paula Wood
Manager of Library Operations