

**NORTH LAKE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES BUDGET WORKSHOP
Tuesday, July 21, 2026
Library Community Room**

Present: Allen Bone, Maggie Newman, Valerie Rogers, George Simpson, Brooke Wegner

Others: Abbi Dooley, Stephanie Dale

OPEN WORKSHOP: Chairman Allen Bone called the workshop to order at 5:35 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ADDITIONS OR CHANGES TO THE AGENDA: None.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT ON AGENDA: None.

BUDGET WORKSHOP: Prior to the workshop the Trustees received budget worksheets, a letter from the library director highlighting special budgetary considerations, a proposed adjustment to the stepped wage scale and a proposal for a special certification for the assistant director. The Director reviewed the items from her letter, including the following:

- The County has stated that it is safe to budget the same revenue as last year plus a 2.97% inflationary rate. Mill values are due from the Department of Revenue on August 3 (the first Monday in August).
- The wage and benefits listed reflect a 2.8% cost of living adjustment to match the increase in the state minimum wage. This moves the entire Stepped Wage Scale by that percentage. An additional part-time barista library assistant position is budgeted and may or may not be filled depending on current staffing.
- The Continuing Education budget includes funds for the youth librarian to attend the ALSC Conference in Buffalo, NY in October, a SHRM-CP certification for the assistant director, and funds for multiple staff and trustees to attend the MLA conference which will be held in Missoula in April.
- Pacific Source is pulling out of the Montana market, therefore a conservative 20% increase to health insurance premiums has been budgeted. There are a few options that will be explored to try to keep costs manageable.
- The Library does not require an audit for FY2026, however there are fees from the FY24 & FY25 audit yet to be incurred that have been budgeted.

- There will be an election for two trustee seats in FY2027 with an estimated budget of \$10,000. However, if no more than two people file for the positions, then an election will not be necessary.
- The Library is participating in the Overdrive Advantage Plus pilot program in FY2027. \$500 per month has been budgeted to buy additional copies of titles for Montana Library2Go. Polson cardholders are always at the top of the holds list for copies our library purchases through this plan. The goal is to reduce hold wait times.
- The Library has budgeted for a change to a different security and fire system through Valley Tech. Two options were presented and the library will go with the lower option.
- The outdoor locker project was once again budgeted with the intent of purchasing in this fiscal year. A grant will be submitted to Greater Polson Community Foundation to help fund this project and other donors may be sought. Any outstanding balance will come from the Depreciation Reserve fund.
- The library website will need to be redone by April 2028 to fully ADA compliant. Quotes will be obtained over the course of the next year to secure a vendor. This has not been budgeted in FY2027 with the goal of work starting in summer/fall 2027.

The Trustees did not change any budgeted figures and are prepared for final discussions at the July 28 meeting with the intent to vote on the FY2027 budget at the August 25, 2026 meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

NEXT MEETING: The next regular meeting of the North Lake County Public Library District Board of Trustees is scheduled for Tuesday, July 28, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. in the Library Community Room.

The workshop adjourned at 6:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Abbi Dooley

Abbi Dooley, Library Director

Minutes taken by Stephanie Dale, Assistant Director