EAST HADDAM LIBRARY SYSTEM

BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE

April 6, 2026

1. Meeting CALLED TO ORDER BY J Bielot AT 4:11 pm.

   Trustees present: J Bielot, D Barlow

   Also present: E Morgen, Library System Director

2. The minutes of the Subcommittee meeting of March 9, 2026 were reviewed and accepted as presented.
3. Old Business
   a. The 2025-26 budget was reviewed. Spending for the current year is running on trend. The Internet/Telephone line is at 100.8% with 3 months to go this FY. This was anticipated. The issue was identified when preparing the '26-'27 budget. The 26-27 budget line was increased to match the trend. There was a decrease in Internet costs at EHFPL as it was migrated from Comcast to Frontier Fiber. The book budget is under 55% used. As mentioned last month, there is only one distributor from whom the Library System can purchase books, and there was confusion regarding payments, which was resolved. Purchasing is proceeding normally. New books are now being received after several months on them not being shipped. Heat (Rathbun Fuel Oil) is only at 39% of budget although the electricity line may slightly exceed budget. We don't foresee exceeding the total budget amount.
   b. The BoS required that the Library System 2026-2027 budget be reduced. Evelyn reviewed the cuts that she had to make. Any decrease is difficult as most of the library budget is fixed costs (salaries & utilities) for which she has no real control over. She reduced the budget by cutting money for Intern hours, Supplies, and from the Book budget. We were not asked to cut any capital budget requests as we have not made any requests in several years. There are several that we could make that have been on the list for quite a few years.
   c. E Morgen has been looking at several grant sources to upgrade Library technology which the budget doesn't support. She reviewed the Middlesex Foundation Grant and found it would not support our needs. She continues working on a grant request from the Riverview Cemetery Association, but there has been a staff member out, so she is spending more time at the service desk which reduces her ability to work on investigating and preparing grant requests, among other things.
4. New Business
   a. There was no New Business
5. Audience of Citizens
   a. There was no audience of citizens.
6. Without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 4:52 PM

Submitted by: John Bielot - Subcommittee Chair