

Camden Public Library Board of Trustees

Meeting Minutes March 5, 2026, to discuss the library budget for 2027

Attendance

Board Members Present: Silvio Calabi, Will Dailey, Erin Donovan, Patty Eddy, Jake Gerritsen, Jennifer Gromada, Heather Shanklin, Kristen Smith, Natalie Travia, Larry Ward, Kendra Watkins, Christina Young.

Board members present via ZOOM: Jeremy Pratt

Board Members Absent: Liz Senders

Non-Board Members Present: Kristy Kilfoyle.

A quorum was established for the meeting.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 PM by Natalie Travia, President, who began by reading Camden Public Library's Mission Statement.

Agenda Items

Public Comment

No public comments were received.

CPL FY2027 Budget Discussion

The board began by considering the provision of health insurance coverage for library staff. Currently, employees receive individual health insurance, but family coverage is not included. The topic of health insurance is frequently raised by staff to the Executive Director as part of their hiring package. The trustees discussed whether to continue offering individual coverage or expand to include family coverage or adjust the level of benefits. The overall budget for the upcoming year is higher than the previous year due to general expenses are higher in the current economy & a focus on the deferred maintenance of the building & grounds. Per a meeting between the Executive Director and the town's manager and financial officer, the library was encouraged to submit its proposed budget. Trustees continued in a thoughtful deliberation weighing the challenges of fundraising for the library, the advantages and disadvantages of various health insurance options, the importance of showing value and retention to employees, anticipated future expenses

related to the building and grounds, the town's participation in funding and the potential impact of Current Events on the financial situation of individuals and the community.

Following the discussion, a motion was made to approve the budget with a 25% increase to the health insurance plan for families. The motion passed, with eight votes in favor and five opposed.

Next Meeting and Adjournment

The next Camden Public Library Board of Trustees meeting is scheduled for March 19, 2026, at 4:00 PM.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 5:08 PM and passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Eddy