



**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**Lewes Public Library Board of Commissioners**  
**Board Meeting**  
**Minutes of January 27, 2026**

Attending the meeting via Zoom were Lewes Public Library (LPL) Board of Commissioners members Maureen Miller, Chanta Howard-Wilkinson, Tom Hall, Nancy Sakaduski, Leslie Newman, Glenn Regan, Maria Royce, Paul Sparrow, along with Library Director Jill DiPaolo and Friends of the Public Library President Candace Vessella.

**\*Call to Order** at 10:01 a.m. by Maureen Miller

**\*Consent Agenda**

A. Minutes of the December 16, 2025, Regular Meeting

The December minutes were approved as written.

B. Financial Reports

Tom reported that the Finance Committee is evaluating liquid brokerage accounts to ensure that LPL cash reserves are invested effectively.

Glen has drafted revisions to LPL's investment strategy, which he will present to the board in February.

Discussion took place regarding capital reserves. A Finance Committee meeting will be examining what is needed in capital reserves and how that money can be managed to get a higher rate of return.

Chanta recused herself during this discussion from 10:05-10:22.

C. Fundraising Update Report

The board-match fundraising effort has been below expectations, so letters with clearer messaging were sent to targeted groups. This approach already seems to be succeeding. Overall, the appeal is doing very well, significantly outpacing last year's.

The board recognized the LPL staff for their hard work on the appeal, as well as the excellent programming that leads to increased donations. The Raskin event was specifically recognized as an example of a complex and demanding project that proved to be an enormous success.

### **\*Director's Report**

LPL has recouped the costs put into the pavilion.

The food pantry was damaged, and the Roots & Shoots group are working under Matt's direction to build a new one.

Recruitment for the teen librarian position is going well. This is a key position for LPL.

The city has increased support for LPL, agreeing to \$20,000 in funding.

Parameters are needed for events held at LPL by outside groups. Demands on staff for cleaning and tech support have created issues that will need to be addressed through structured fees.

### **\*Board Committee Reports**

- Human Resources Committee

Chanta reported that the first meeting will be held on February 11 and will include several staff members. This working group will review the new employee handbook.

- Development Committee

A report will be provided at next month's meeting.

### **\*Friends Report**

Candace reported that FLPL will be able to meet their commitment to LPL.

The fiction sale went well, producing over \$1,700 in revenues. The next sale will be April 24-25.

Candace has worked hard on an effort to increase the library tax to better fund libraries in Sussex County. She created a letter of support, which was signed by all eleven library directors, to send to county council members. The advocacy efforts were praised by the board.

### **\*Old Business**

- Pavilion Committee Charter

Chanta reported that the committee is making good progress and will be presenting revised policies to the board.

### **\*New Business**

A meeting was held with an individual who is interested in helping on the board or a committee. The candidate has a CPA and experience working with nonprofits, including libraries. It was agreed that the person will be invited to observe a Finance Committee meeting.

### **\*Executive Session**

The meeting went into executive session at 11:30 to discuss a real estate matter. Nancy recused herself for the discussion.

The meeting was reconvened at 11:44.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the motion made during the executive session. There were four votes in favor and one abstention (Nancy).

Meeting adjourned 11:45 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Sakaduski, Secretary