

Georgia Public Library
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Library Trustees
Nicole Jamison, Chair
Debbie Mann, Vice Chair
Kollene Caspers, Secretary
Terry Cleveland, Treasurer
Craig Volatile-Wood, Trustee

Georgia Public Library Special Trustee Meeting: 2026 Budget
Wednesday, January 9, 2026 4:30pm
Location: Georgia Public Library

MINUTES

Trustees Present: Kollene Caspers, Terry Cleveland, Nicole Jamison, Debbie Mann
Staff Present:

1. Call to order: 4:46pm
2. Additions, deletions, or changes to the Agenda:
 - D. Mann requested to add a discussion about an employee leaving GPL, she asked if it would be possible to schedule an exit interview. Chair Jamison said she would request that an exit interview be scheduled.
3. 2026 Budget Discussion
 - The Selectboard has level funded the GPL, allocating \$181,898.62 again in 2026.
 - GPL's Operating expenses in 2025 was budgeted at \$20,545.00
 - Salaries account for \$119,464 of the budget.
 - The remaining \$41,889.62 account for the library director's health and retirement benefits.
 - T. Cleveland shared proposed 2026 GPL budgeting documents with the Trustees.
 - Trustees participated in budget discussion of existing line items. Budget documents included potential raises for the Library Director and staff, totaling \$14,603.70. This would reduce the operating expenses to just \$5,495.00
 - K. Caspers reminded the Board of the State of Vermont minimum standards for libraries, where 15% of the total budget or \$1 per capita shall be spent on library materials. This would be roughly \$4,800 necessary to budget for books, periodicals, online resources, and other library materials. Under the proposed budget, only half that is budgeted for materials.
 - Anticipated supplemental income to the GPL in 2026 include \$4,675 in impact fees and at least \$17,141 in grant funding that can be used towards books, programs and other materials for the library.
 - Discussion was had on putting forth a budget where \$134,067.70 of the appropriated \$181,898.62 of Georgia tax dollars would go to salaries, and only \$5,495 for materials, programs and operating expenses.
 - D. Mann questioned the number of staff hours, staff duties and library hours open to the public. A reduction in staff or staff hours may mean a reduction in hours the library is open to the public.
 - K. Caspers recommended duplicating the line items in the 2025 GPL budget for the 2026 budget. The Trustees can make adjustments to the GPL budget after Town Meeting Day and/or when the 2026 Town budget is approved. This would give the

Trustees a better indication of what grant funds are available in 2026 and how they may be best used for the library.

Motion to approve the Georgia Public Library 2026 budget follow the same line-item amounts as FY2025 GPL budget.

K. Caspers made the motion. T. Cleveland seconded the motion.

Voting Yea: D. Mann, K. Caspers, T. Cleveland, N. Jamison

4. Adjourn

T. Cleveland made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:21pm.

Voting Yea: D. Mann, K. Caspers, T. Cleveland, N. Jamison