

**Strathcona County Library Board**  
**Minutes**  
March 16, 2026  
Strathcona County Hall Meeting Room L-1

**Board Members in Attendance**

Paul Ryzuk  
Amy Koskela (Chair)  
Rebecca Gagnon  
Olubusayo Disu  
Marla Tonita  
Keely Cronin  
Donna Smith  
Audrey Powell  
Councilor Glen Lawrence

**Library Staff**

Sharon Siga (Chief Executive Officer)  
Shelley Reason (Facility and Administrative Assistant - Minutes)

**Regrets with Notice**

Lisa Petraschuk

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at **6:34 pm** by the Chair.

**1.1 Acknowledgement of Meeting Location**

Audrey Powell presented the land acknowledgement for the March meeting.

**1.2 Select Board Member to Present Land Acknowledgement at the next Board Meeting**

Audrey Powell will present the land acknowledgment for the April meeting.

**2. Approval of the Agenda**

Agenda item 7.10 Board Participation – PD Day was added.

**MOTION 26/2026**

That the Strathcona County Library Board approve the agenda as amended.

Moved by Rebecca Gagnon.

CARRIED

**3. Approval of Minutes**

**MOTION 27/2026**

That the Strathcona County Library Board approve the minutes of the February 23, 2026 Library Board Meeting.

Moved by Donna Smith.

CARRIED

4. **Business Arising from the Minutes**  
None.

5. **Consent Agenda Items**

**MOTION 28/2026**

That the Strathcona County Library Board accept the consent agenda items for information.

Moved by Audrey Powell.

CARRIED

5.1 **List of Correspondence: Incoming, Outgoing and Media Releases**

5.2 **CEO Report**

6. **Verbal Reports**

6.1 **County Councillor Verbal Report**

Councillor Glen Lawrence explained that Council is continuing to work on strategic Planning. He will be attending the Rural Municipalities of Alberta Conference for the rest of the week. There is a Teepee raising and pipe ceremony on Friday, March 19 at 3:00 pm at the Beaver Hills Biodiversity Trail. Everyone is welcome to attend. The luncheon with the Councillors and Executive Team on February 26 was well received. Councillor Lawrence thanked Sharon, the Board and library staff for all they do.

6.2 **Chair Verbal Report**

Amy Koskela attended the Friends of Strathcona County Library Society AGM and Board meeting. It was awesome to meet the Friends Board. They are very enthusiastic and professional. Each person contributes to the work of the Friends. They have clear expectations for fundraising and goals going forward. Amy encouraged each Library Board Member to support the Friends by signing up for their newsletter, and when possible, attending their events. Amy would like the Library Board and Friends Board to have a meet and greet at some time in the future.

7. **New Business**

7.1 **Draft Minutes of the March 2, 2026 Executive/Audit Committee Meeting (for information)**

7.2 **Audit Finding Report (for information)**

The report from Ernst & Young LLP was discussed. The auditors provided an unqualified opinion. It was a positive outcome with no errors to correct. They also complimented Candace Tomlinson, library's Accountant, for the work she did.

### **7.3 Draft Strathcona County Library Financial Statements**

#### **7.3.1 Draft Strathcona County Library Board Financial Statements for the Year Ended December 31, 2025**

#### **7.3.2 Management Notes for the Draft Financial Statements (for information)**

The Board appreciated Candace's report which explained where numbers come from. A discussion occurred regarding obligation to record the future costs of retiring an asset, such as the library's portion of the Community Centre, which was estimated to be just over \$11,000.

#### **MOTION 29/2026**

That the Strathcona County Library Board approve 2025 Financial Statements.

Made by Keely Cronin.

CARRIED

### **7.4 Learning Opportunity: Library Board Member Liabilities and Insurance Coverage**

Sharon Siga had attended a webinar entitled Non-profit Directors and Officers Liability and Insurance. She shared some of the slides from the presentation. The Board discussed what this meant for the Library Board as a whole and for individual Board members. This included fiduciary duties as well as what Directors and Officers Liability Insurance covers and in what circumstances.

She also shared that the provincial Freedom to Care Act is designed to protect individuals who volunteer on a not-for-profit board.

#### **7.4.1 Library Board Authority and Accountability (for information)**

### **7.5 Library Branch Update**

#### **7.5.1 Revised Facility Report for Background**

#### **7.5.2 Library Branch Options (For Decision)**

#### **7.5.3 Sherwood Park Crusaders Arena Plan Drawings (Confidential)**

#### **7.5.4 Criteria for Library Branch Location**

Sharon provided additional documents regarding the costs of a temporary versus a permanent location. A brief discussion occurred regarding timing and priorities. It was decided to table this discussion until the April meeting as this is a topic that required more time than what remained for the meeting.

### **7.6 Provincial Advocacy Update**

Sharon, Amy and Keely Cronin met with MLA Nate Glubish on March 13. The meeting was encouraging. The theme of the meeting was accessibility, which encompasses broadband internet to residents in rural Strathcona, AI training in public libraries, the new Plan of Service, and library funding.

Access to library collections was also discussed in light of the recent school libraries Ministerial Order. Sharon was asked how items are selected to be added to the library collection since some of the titles being challenged in school libraries are present in public libraries. The issue of book challenges was discussed.

**7.7 Former Board Member Interviews**

Keely completed the former Board Member interviews. Previous members indicated that they appreciated contributing to a vision for the library and getting to know people. The former Board Members would like to be involved going forward as they would like to keep contributing. The commitment to having a diverse Board was mentioned. Both mentioned that community members applying to the Board need to understand the time commitment that is involved and that attending everything is not mandatory. Former Board Members were proud of conversations about a new branch, strategic planning, creating the land acknowledgement, and removing the overdue fines. The former Board Members suggested the next undertakings for the Board should be freedom of expression, intellectual freedom, advocacy and how to support staff.

**7.8 Volunteers for Donor Thank-a-thon**

Sharon will send out a Doodle Poll asking for volunteers.

**7.9 ALTA Zone 7 Representation**

Deferred until April Board Meeting.

**7.10 Board Participation – Library Staff PD Day**

Sharon invited Board members to attend some or all of the staff Professional Development Day on May 8, 2026. She will send out a poll to see who can attend.

**8. Comments, Announcements, and Other Business**

**8.1 Public Presentations**

**8.2 Upcoming Friends Meeting:**

April 13, 2026 CC MR 5. Sharon will send details to interested Board members.

**8.3 Dinner with Fort Saskatchewan Public Library Board Members**

Fort Saskatchewan Library Board will get back to us about the dates we proposed.

#### **8.4 Board Member Round Robin**

#### **9. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at **8:36 pm**.



---

Amy Koskela, Chair