

PIONEERLAND LIBRARY SYSTEM
EXECUTIVE/FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES
Thursday, February 19, 2026, Willmar Library Multipurpose room

Members present: Eric Rudningen, Dale Anderson, Duane Anderson, Cheryl VanOrt, John Winter, Scott Peterson, Greg Thole, Mitch Kling, Bill Thyne and Kurt Stranberg. Staff on site: Laurie Ortega, Director and Guest Andrew Bregar, Head librarian, Willmar. Absent: Bill Paterson.

Meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by Chair Rudningen. Roll call was taken and a quorum was present.

The agenda was approved on a motion by Kling, seconded by Dale Anderson.

Minutes of the January 15, 2026, Finance Committee were approved on a motion by VanOrt, seconded by Winter.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Finance Committee:

- 1) **The January 2026 Financial Report** was approved on a motion by Kling, seconded by Duane Anderson.
- 2) **Bills and Check Registers** were approved on a motion by Thole, seconded by Stranberg.
- 3) **2025 Fund Transfers** were approved on a motion by Kling, seconded by Peterson.

B. Personnel Committee:

- **New Hires:** The following new hire was approved on a motion by Stranberg, seconded by Thyne: Lydia Claauwe, Library Asst. II, Granite Falls

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

A. 2026 Committee Appointments: The list of 2026 committee appointments was approved on a motion by Thyne, seconded by Thole.

B. FY26 Arvig Extension: Pioneerland would like to exercise the second of our two optional extensions with Arvig for internet service. This will be the last extension of the current contract. Approval was given on a motion by VanOrt, seconded by Duane Anderson, two exercise the second one-year extension for E-rate funding year 2026.

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE:

1. 2025 E-rate Update: Director confirms receipt of the Funding Commitment Decision Letter (FCDL) from USAC for 2025 E-rate internet service. The window for FY26 applications has opened and Ortega will move forward with applying. Hopefully the approval process will be much smoother for the FY26 funding year.

2. 2025 Audit process: The process for the 2025 audit by Westberg Eischens has begun. The 2025 audit is scheduled to be presented at the full board meeting in April.

OTHER:

Chair Rudningen provided a brief update on the Executive Director search. A number of qualified applications were received. Pat Melvin from DDA will review submitted

applications and arrange for video interviews with the selected applicants. Additional updates will be provided as the process moves forward.

Next board meeting scheduled for April 16, 2026 @ 7:00 p.m. (Finance @ 6:30)

Executive/Finance Meetings: March 19 & May 21 @ 6:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 6:24 p.m.

Recording Secretary – Laurie Ortega