

Library Board of Trustees – APPROVED 10/20/2026

Public Hearing: Presentation of 2027 Budget Proposal for East Greenbush Community Library
October 13, 2026, in person, livestreamed, and recorded

ATTENDEES:

Presiding Officers:

Charlie Pensabene, President
Amanda Miller, Vice-President
Crystal Derico, Treasurer
Sarah Boggess, Trustee
Doug Morrissey, Trustee
Jordan White, Trustee

Excused:

Kayla Kutzscher, Secretary

Library staff, Community Partners & Members of the Public:

Jill Dugas Hughes, Library Director
Jenna Schmonsky, Administrative Assistant
Julie Ann Price, Friends President of the East Greenbush Community Library
Betty Bellino Guigno
A member of the public

A Public Hearing and Presentation of the Proposed 2027 East Greenbush Community Library Budget was held on October 13, 2026, at the East Greenbush Community Library and was livestreamed. It began at 6:00 p.m. and was presided over by Charlie Pensabene, President with Amanda Miller as Acting Secretary. The meeting was recorded.

CALL TO ORDER:

- C. Pensabene called the Public Hearing meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

REVIEW OF AGENDA:

- The agenda was reviewed.

PUBLIC HEARING:

- Treasurer Crystal Derico presented the proposed 2027 library budget. The proposal maintains current library access and services, responds to operating cost changes, supports the staff needed to deliver those services, and continues long-term planning for the building and infrastructure.

- **Taxpayer Impact:**

- The proposed tax levy is \$2,153,060, an increase of \$72,810 (3.5%) from 2026. For a property assessed at \$300,000, the estimated annual library tax would be \$217.92, an estimated increase of \$6.84 per year, or approximately \$0.57 per month. Individual tax bills may vary based on final assessments and applicable exemptions.

- **Services Maintained by the Budget:**

- The 2027 budget maintains current library services, collections, programs, and technology. Salary and benefit costs increase, while non-personnel operating costs decrease by 0.9%. The budget also reduces reliance on prior-year and restricted funds and assumes a \$500,000 Schodack service contract pending ongoing discussions.

- **Community Use Remains Strong:**

- Compared with 2024, 2025 library visits increased by 14%, program attendance by 22%, summer reading attendance by 35%, registered borrowers by 16%, digital circulation by 7%, and meeting room use by 27%. These increases demonstrate growing community engagement and the need to sustain current services.

- **Budget Changes:**

- The budget reflects a 4.4% increase in income and a 4.9% increase in operating expenses, while reducing reliance on fund balances and restricted funds. Lower capital reserve transfers result in total appropriations 1.5% below the 2026 amended budget. Stewardship efforts focus on controlling operating costs, maintaining services, reviewing contracts and funding opportunities, and setting aside \$126,029 for future building and infrastructure needs.
- The 2027 plan includes potential bathroom improvements, including a water bottle filler, supported by an identified \$250,000 grant, and parking lot maintenance, including restriping, seal coating, and ADA spaces. Moisture and slab conditions remain under investigation, and the \$250,000 planning allowance is for evaluating potential costs only; the scope, responsibility, and funding have not been finalized.

- **Revenue Sources and Allocation of Expenditures:**

- Proposed resources include the East Greenbush tax levy, the assumed Schodack service contract, gifts, grants, interest, public aid, and restricted funds. Proposed uses are personnel, other operating costs, and a capital reserve contribution. Personnel is the largest category because the library is a service organization, but the budget also supports collections, technology, building operations, and long-term planning.

- **Proposed Budget and Voting Information:**

- Proposed budget amount: \$2,834,060
- Voting Date & Location: Monday, November 16, 2026, 9:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. at the East Greenbush Community Library
- Eligible East Greenbush voters may participate
- Two trustee seats are scheduled to appear on the ballot

C. Pensabene expressed appreciation to all for the work and continued support for making the library a great place to be.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- No public comment was received.

ADJOURN:

- **MOTION #2026-10-71:** Motion to adjourn the October 13, 2026, Public Hearing and Presentation of the 2027 Proposed East Greenbush Community Library Budget was made by A. Miller at 6:09 p.m. Seconded by D. Morrissey. The motion was carried with 6 in favor, none opposed.

Recorded by: Jenna Schmonsky, Administrative Assistant
Respectfully submitted by: Amanda Miller, Acting Secretary