

MINUTES
FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARIES OF TOWNS COUNTY
BOARD MEETING
February 10, 2026

I. Call to Order

President Rose Mary Crook called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. at Towns County Public Library, Hiawassee, Georgia.

Board members present: Marcia Aunspaugh, Kim Brown, Rose Carter, Suzanne Carter, Rose Mary Crook, Kathy Day, Megan Hume, Kevin Kirby, Elaine Roberts, Shawna Rose (via Zoom), and Mary Welken. Friend Dick Aunspaugh, was also present.

Board members not present: Judith Lee, Christine Osborn, and Darlene Pilcher.

II. President's Report

President Crook welcomed everyone.

III. Minutes

The minutes of the December 9, 2025, board meeting were presented by Kathy Day.

MOTION: Rose Carter moved that the minutes be accepted. The motion was seconded by Marcia Aunspaugh; carried unanimously.

IV. Treasurer's Report

Rose Carter presented the Treasurer's Report for the period of January 1, 2026 to January 31, 2026. Beginning balance was **\$33,872.63**. Total income for that period was **\$377.62**. Total expenses were **\$515.57**. The balance as of January 31, 2026 is **\$33,734.68**, with encumbered funds of **\$6,582.56** and unencumbered funds of **\$27,152.12**.

Rose shared the following purchases were made:

- (2) Tonies, one for each library
- (1) Laminator for Mountain Regional Library
- (1) \$8.00 book to replace a lost book

Rose reported the current rate for the Freedom CD at Peach State Credit Union is 3.4%. Her plan is to purchase one \$2,500 CD, up to a total of \$10,000, every 3 months so that they will mature on a rolling basis.

MOTION: Rose Carter moved for FOLTC to encumber \$100/month, per library for a total of \$200/month in 2026 only, to be used for monthly programs outside

of the Summer Reading Program (SRP). The motion was seconded by Marcia Aunspaugh; carried unanimously.

MOTION: Suzanne Carter moved for FOLTC to encumber \$100/month, per library for a total of \$200/month in 2026 only to be used for book purchases. The motion was seconded by Mary Welken; carried unanimously.

V. Library Reports

Kevin Kirby reported that he has plans to set up a “maker space” at TCPL to focus on STEM programming. The intent is to involve kids starting at about the 3rd and 4th grade level that will keep them coming as they move through into middle and high school. He shared with the board equipment and software (Chomp saw and Hummingbird set) that would allow kids to utilize robotics and computer programming to create models that will move.

MOTION: Rose Carter moved for FOLTC to encumber \$2000 for TCPL to purchase the chomp saw and hummingbird set. The motion was seconded by Rose Mary Crook; carried unanimously.

Shawna Rose reported that MRL has not fully fleshed out what their “maker space” will be but that she saw it focusing more on the arts and crafts. She sees the possibility of purchasing a kiln and sewing machine. There is adult programming planned with Heather Welch during Read Across America with a Dr. Seuss theme.

It is anticipated that \$1200 - \$1900 will be needed for programming for the Summer Reading Program.

MOTION: Suzanne Carter moved for FOLTC to encumber \$2000 for 2026 programming for SRP. The motion was seconded by Mary Welken; carried unanimously.

VI. Book Bunch

Kim Brown reported the February book is Memorial Days by Geraldine Brooks, and the March book will be Miss Morgan’s Book Brigade by Janet Skeslien Charles. In person meetings will resume in April when the book will be The Book of Lost Friends by Lisa Wingate.

VII. Corresponding Secretary

Judith Lee was not present but reported via email that there was no correspondence since the last meeting.

VIII. Bookstore/Book Sales

Marcia Aunspaugh reported that a bookstore work day is needed at MRL. A work day has been scheduled for Thursday, February 19 at 10:30 a.m. An Inventory Reduction Sale is scheduled for the month of April 2026.

IX. Bake and Pie Sales

There is no chairperson for this committee and no plans at present for future bake sales.

X. Membership

Christine Osborn was not present but reported January 2026 membership is as follows:

FOLTC January 2026 Membership Report	
Business	2
Donor	14
Family	9
Honorary	1
Individual	25
Life	9
Patron	12
Sponsor	2
TOTAL	74

XI. Newsletter

Darlene Pilcher was not present.

XII. Publicity

Suzanne Carter reported she continues to post on the Facebook page, is updating the 2026 calendar, and adding things to the website. She has written 2 articles for the newspaper reviewing recent FOLTC activities and what our fundraising has provided to the libraries.

XIII. Old Business

- a. Review and Vote on by-laws

MOTION: Marcia Aunspaugh moved to accept the proposed by-law change to amend Article 7.2.5 that was presented December 9, 2025. The motion was seconded by Rose Mary Crook; carried unanimously.

- b. Re-discuss money for Tonies (see above)

- c. Consider encumbered money for gift cards for Library Staff

MOTION: Marcia Aunspaugh moved to encumber \$850 for Ingles gift cards to be presented to all library staff during National Library Week April 19-25, 2026. The motion was seconded by Rose Mary Crook; carried unanimously.

XIV. New Business

- a. Town County High School Scholarship – Kathy Day reported that the committee had met and has begun establishing eligibility criteria and developing an application for the FOLTC sponsored scholarship.

MOTION: Rose Carter moved to encumber \$1000 to fund a scholarship to be given to a graduating senior from Towns County High School to pursue post-secondary education. The motion was seconded by Rose Mary Crook; carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 p.m. by President Rose Mary Crook. The next meeting will be April 14, 2026 at Mountain Regional Library in Young Harris.

Respectfully submitted by Kathy Day, Recording Secretary