

**Ella Johnson Memorial Public Library  
109 S. State Street, Hampshire, IL 60140  
Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees  
January 26, 2026**

**Call to Order:** President Linda Wallace called the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 7:00 pm.

**Present:** Trustees Kim Alberth, Pat Dumoulin, Kathy Eller, Morgan Kolecke, Suzanne Lattanzio, Judy Pokorny and Linda Wallace.

**Absent:** None

**Staff Members:** Executive Director Stephen Bero, Youth Services Manager/Assistant Director Heather Swanson, Recording Secretary Kimberly Luhman, and Adult/Technical Services Manager Susie Stanley.

**Public:** Cindy Jerger, Doug Pfeiffer

**Pledge of Allegiance:** President Wallace led those gathered in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Changes/Corrections to the Agenda:** None

**Questions/Comments-Public/Media:**

Cindy Jerger addressed the board about the flag out front, and what action was taken so that there would be no more fire alarms. Director Bero responded that the flagpole and flag were repaired and that all we were waiting for was nicer weather to install the cleat. He stated that the new HVAC units should eliminate further alarms.

**Approval of Minutes:**

**Regular Meeting:** Motion by Trustee Lattanzio and second by Trustee Dumoulin to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees held on December 22, 2025. The minutes were approved by voice-vote consensus.

**Treasurer's Report:**

- Approval of Bills for January 2026; Payrolls for December 2025. Motion by Trustee Kolecke and second by Trustee Eller to approve the January 2026 Bills in the amount of \$80,169.35 and December Payrolls in the amount of \$26,746.90. The Bills and Payrolls were approved by voice-vote consensus.
- Financial Report-December 2025

**Director's Report:**

- Department Reports
- Circulation/Programming/Database Statistics
- Ella's Friends Minutes-January 6, 2026

**Director's Report:**

Director Bero gave further details on the cleat and halyard cover that will be installed on the flagpole. He mentioned that we would like to move the Donor Tree out of the Community Room and put it near the front entrance, where it would be more visible to the public.

**President's Report:** President Wallace shared articles about our neighboring libraries.

**Unfinished Business:** None

**New Business:**

**A. Report of the ad hoc committee on the semi-annual review of the minutes of executive sessions**

The committee presented the full board with their recommendations.

Motion by Trustee Kolecke and second by Trustee Alberth that the board open the executive session minutes of June 22, July 28, and September 22, 2025, and erase the verbatim recordings of executive sessions older than 18 months. The motion was approved by voice-vote consensus.

**B. Per Capita Grant application for fiscal year 2026**

Motion by Trustee Dumoulin and second by Trustee Lattanzio that the board approve the Illinois Public Library Per Capita Grant Application for Fiscal Year 2026 for submission. The motion was approved by voice-vote consensus.

**C. Presentation by Dewberry Architects**

Architect Doug Pfeiffer discussed the scope and process for the interior remodeling and renovation of the library building. The board gave him approval to proceed with conceptual design. The board asked for three scenarios and costs associated with each of them. Dewberry will meet with the library staff to begin the process in February.

**D. Executive Session**

Motion by Trustee Dumoulin and second by Trustee Lattanzio that the board enter executive session to consider the employment of a specific employee of the public body [5 ILCS 120/2.(c)(1)]. The motion was approved by voice-vote consensus.

The board entered executive session at 8:10 p.m.

The board reconvened in open session at 8:54 p.m.

**E. Action as a result of the Executive Session**

Motion by Trustee Dumoulin and second by Trustee Lattanzio that the board direct Executive Director Bero to manage the search for a permanent executive director, to begin immediately. The motion was approved by voice-vote consensus.

**Discussion:** None

**Adjournment:** Trustee Dumoulin motioned for the meeting to be adjourned, seconded by Trustee Eller. President Wallace adjourned the meeting at 8:56 p.m. Closing of the meeting was approved by voice-vote consensus.

The next Regular Board Meeting is at 7:00 pm on Monday, February 23, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Bero, Recording Secretary

Kim Alberth, Board Secretary