

**Ella Johnson Memorial Public Library  
109 S. State Street, Hampshire, IL 60140  
Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees  
October 27, 2025**

**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, and Judy Pokorny and Linda Wallace.

**Absent:** None

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

**Public:** Cindy Jerger, Cathy Czopek from Friends, Susan Zurcher from Friends

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

**Changes/Corrections to the Agenda:** The library will be closed on November 21, 2025, for all staff to attend Noelle Erdman's Memorial Service at the Pingree Grove Community Center.

**Questions/Comments-Public/Media:** Cindy Jerger asked what is the long-term plan for the library? It would be nice to have a better understanding of plans for moving forward. What kind of research is being done to have another referendum and if there will be then when, fall or spring?

**Approval of Minutes:**

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

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

**Treasurer's Report:**

- Approval of Bills for October 2025; Payrolls for September 2025. Motion by Trustee Kolecke and second by Trustee Eller to approve the October 2025 Bills in the amount of \$27,321.30 and September Payrolls in the amount of \$40,323.18. The Bills and Payrolls were approved by voice-vote consensus.
- Financial Report-October 2025

**Director's Report:**

- Department Reports
- Circulation/Programming/Database Statistics
- Friends Minutes-October 7, 2025

**Director's Report:** Director Bero shared that there was concern with a recent power outage that there were no emergency lights in the bathrooms. He would like to have the electrician out to look at options for those rooms. Trustee Dumoulin asked about the recent water damage in the Community Room and if it

would be covered by insurance. Stephen informed the board that it would not be covered as the insurance company recommended, it would be best not to file a claim. The insurance company felt that the prior construction done to the building before the library was here did not properly cover a pipe. That pipe has since been covered and sealed properly. Trustee Pokorny was concerned that we were not covered, and would we be covered for future water damage if it were to happen.

Heather shared the upcoming 150<sup>th</sup> celebration for the village. She is a part of the 150<sup>th</sup> committee and there will be a Hampshire-Opoly game with the library on it for everyone to enjoy that is being created.

Cathy from Friends shared that the recent book sale raised \$4,333.00. There was a great response for the first day of the sale. The parking lot was full, with 34 people in line at opening time. The National Honor Society students were a big help. Prairieview Garden Center is so wonderful to work with. Having a sale at the greenhouse is a perfect place. They allow the Friends to start setting up 3 weeks in advance which is a tremendous help to the Friends allowing them ample time for set up.

**President's Report:** President Wallace shared an article from the Wall Street Journal about how Main Street leads right to your library. Linda expressed a thank you to Ella's Friends for all their hard work that they do for the library, especially for the book sale.

**Unfinished Business:** None

**New Business:**

**A. Proclamation: National Friends of the Library Week, October 19-25, 2025.**

President Wallace read the Proclamation aloud. The Board adopted the Proclamation for National Friends of the Library Week, October 19-25, 2025

**B. Revised Library Computers/Internet Policy**

Motion by Trustee Lattanzio and second by Trustee Kolecke that the board adopt the revised Library Computers/Internet Policy as presented. The motion was approved by voice-vote consensus.

**C. Draft of Annual Levy**

Motion by Trustee Lattanzio and seconded by Trustee Alberth that the board adopt Levy Scenario #3 and set the Truth in Taxation Hearing at 6:45 pm on Monday, November 24, 2025. The motion was approved by voice-vote consensus.

**D. Long-Range SWOT analysis**

- 17 out of 20 have responded.
- Prioritize next steps in the long-range process.
- Communication Policy getting feedback from the public.
- Staying at our current location. Can we remodel? Adult/Tech Services really is crowded and needs space. Their desk consist of file cabinets with plywood on top.
- Concerns about the time frame with Pingree Grove. What are the next steps?
- We need to educate the public and communicate the plan.
- What does it mean if we have two buildings? Or do we stick with one building to serve all.
- Increasing taxes is our number one concern.
- Proposed to set the end goal(s) and work our way backwards to determine plan.
- Continue with mailings to educate the public about what we have to offer.

- Adversary referendum on the ballet is an option. It's just asking a question.

**Discussion:** Trustee Alberth shared that there was a nice email from Sherri Rago giving a shout out to Kevin and Sarah.

**Adjournment:** Trustee Dumoulin motioned for the meeting to be adjourned, seconded by Trustee Alberth. President Wallace adjourned the meeting at 8:58 p.m. Closing of the meeting was approved by voice-vote consensus.

Truth in Taxation Hearing at 6:45 pm on Monday, November 24, 2025.  
The next Regular Board Meeting is at 7:00 pm on Monday, November 24, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Luhman, Recording Secretary

Kim Alberth, Board Secretary