

**Ella Johnson Memorial Public Library  
109 S. State Street, Hampshire, IL 60140  
Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees  
December 22, 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, Judy Pokorny and Linda Wallace.

**Absent:** None

**Staff Members:** Executive Director Stephen Bero, Youth Services Manager/Assistant Director Heather Swanson, Recording Secretary Kimberly Luhman, Karin Vial, Michele Halt, and Gavin Erdman.

**Public:** Cindy Jerger

**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 wanted to thank the library for responding to her letter that she had sent in. She also wanted to know how things will be published to the public.

Karin Vial spoke on concerns about the heating and ventilation in the building. On several occasions the staff and patrons have smelled gas. This has been an issue for several months; there have been several callouts to the fire department. Most recently, a few days ago when the Carbon Monoxide level was high, the alarms inside the building were alarming. Staff and patrons had to be evacuating and Nicor was requested by the Hampshire Fire Department. Karin also wanted to know why we do not put things out to bid for other contractors.

Director Bero responded to Karins concerns. Stephen was also upset with the recent letter that was sent to the board by another staff member. We have ordered two new units that should arrive next week, with the holidays there may be a small delay. Once the units are in there is an option to have Mike turn off the economizer. The building will then have recirculated air and not outside fresh air.

Trustee Wallace thanked the public and responded that there is no hesitation in replacing the units that are not working.

Trustee Kolecke asked why there were alarms. Bero answered that they were the CO alarms that indicated the roof-top units were overheating.

**Approval of Minutes:**

**Public Hearing Meeting:** Motion by Trustee Dumoulin and second by Trustee Lattanzio to approve the minutes from the Public Hearing held on November 24, 2025. The minutes were approved by voice-vote consensus.

**Regular Meeting:** Motion by Trustee Dumoulin and second by Trustee Eller to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees held on November 24, 2025. The minutes were approved by voice-vote consensus.

**Treasurer's Report:**

- Approval of Bills for December 2025; Payrolls for November 2025. Motion by Trustee Lattanzio and second by Trustee Pokorny to approve the December 2025 Bills in the amount of \$31,548.28 and November Payrolls in the amount of \$38,508.48. The Bills and Payrolls were approved by voice-vote consensus.
- Financial Report-November 2025

**Director's Report:**

- Department Reports
- Circulation/Programming/Database Statistics
- Friends Minutes-December2, 2025

**Director's Report:**

Director Bero shared that next month we should have the report from the engineers regarding the measurements and what we will need for a remodel.

Trustee Pokorny asked about two items that have been on the Directors' report for a while. One being the mural for the North wall. Director Bero responded that it was in cold storage. Secondly, what about the flagpole. Director Bero responded that we had someone out to give an estimate but felt it was not an option for us. He would like to have one like the police station has currently. Trustee Pokorny would like to get this item off the list and Trustee Lattanzio commented we should move it sooner than later. Director Bero will make it a priority.

Friends are currently already working on next years book sale.

**President's Report:** President Wallace shared the article that was recently in the paper regarding libraries carrying Narcan and the training required for that. ILA had a nice report on Gail Borden and what all they do for their community. Trustee wished everyone a happy holiday.

**Unfinished Business:** None

**New Business:**

**A. Presentation of the Audited Financial Statement for fiscal year end June 30, 2025, by Lauterbach & Amen, LLC**

Nothing changed from last month's draft. The Audit will be available on the website as well.

Motion by Trustee Kolecke and second by Trustee Eller that the board accept the audited financial statement for fiscal year ended June 30, 2025, as presented. The motion was approved by voice-vote consensus.

**B. Appointment of ad hoc committee to conduct semi-annual review of executive session minutes.**

Trustees Kolecke and Trustee Eller will meet at 6:00 p.m. on January 26, 2026.

**Discussion:**

Trustee Kolecke asked what are the plans for the coming year? What are our strengths and our goals for the coming year? Trustee Lattanzio commented that communication to our community needs to happen. Our community needs educating on the library.

Trustee Alberth would like to see a newsletter mailed out on a regular basis.

Trustee Pokorny asked what is the long-range planning? New Director, remodeling, where we are going in the long term. Also, there is a new village manager, she would like to meet her. We need a long-range plan.

Director Bero added taking care of the structure, remodeling, new Director and communication.

**Adjournment:** Trustee Dumoulin motioned for the meeting to be adjourned, seconded by Trustee Alberth. President Wallace adjourned the meeting at 7:40 p.m. Closing of the meeting was approved by voice-vote consensus.

The next Regular Board Meeting is at 7:00 pm on Monday, January 26, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Luhman, Recording Secretary

Kim Alberth, Board Secretary