

**Ella Johnson Memorial Public Library
109 S. State Street, Hampshire, IL 60140
Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees
November 24, 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: Steve Jerger and Ginger Romano

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

Changes/Corrections to the Agenda: None

Questions/Comments-Public/Media:

Ginger Romano addressed the board with concerns about the immigration enforcement that the board would be discussing later in the meeting. She asked that the board keep the Constitution in mind when making decisions.

The board received a letter from Cindy Jerger. Director Bero will be responding to the letter. President Wallace added that the board respects all those who speak.

Approval of Minutes:

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 October 27, 2025. The minutes were approved by voice-vote consensus.

Treasurer's Report:

- Approval of Bills for November 2025; Payrolls for October 2025. Motion by Trustee Lattanzio and second by Trustee Kolecke to approve the November 2025 Bills in the amount of \$29,991.11 and October Payrolls in the amount of \$57,667.92. The Bills and Payrolls were approved by voice-vote consensus.
- Financial Report-October 2025
The account that is currently at Resource Bank will be closed.

Director's Report:

- Department Reports
- Circulation/Programming/Database Statistics
- PrairieCat DA Brief-October 27, 2025
- Friends Minutes-November 4, 2025

Director's Report:

Director Bero had no report.

Heather shared an update on the Holidays on State.

President's Report:

President Wallace wished to keep her comments short and wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

A. Ordinance 2024-11-01 Annual Tax Levy for Tax Year 2025

Motion by Trustee Dumoulin and second by Trustee Lattanzio that the board adopt Ordinance 2025-11-01 Annual Tax Levy for Tax Year 2025. The motion was approved by voice-vote consensus.

B. Draft of the Audited Financial Statement for fiscal year end June 30, 2025

Director Bero will send the Financial Statement out as soon as he gets it.

C. Policies

1. Hotspot Lending
2. Immigration Enforcement

Motion by Trustee Pokorny and seconded by Trustee Dumoulin that the board adopt the Hotspot Lending policy as presented. The motion was approved by voice-vote consensus.

Motion by Trustee Dumoulin and seconded by Trustee Eller that the board adopt the Immigration Enforcement policy as presented. The motion was approved by voice-vote consensus.

D. Long-Range planning: Next steps: building improvements, hiring a new Executive Director:**Building Improvements:**

Director Bero shared that the Adult/Tech Services department is a high priority for a remodel. We need to repurpose the space and get it ready for a new person to join the team. Due to space constraints it's hard to process items, have multiple carts and move them about in and out. Possibility would be to move the west wall into the public area and the north wall into the breakroom to enlarge the space.

Trustee Pokorny recommended we get a few options to look at.

Trustee Alberth shared that the workroom is not efficient

The board believes it would be good to have the entire library looked at. Possibly do remodeling in phases. Director Bero has the Board's permission to contact Dewberry.

Hiring a new Executive Director:

Director Bero will be leaving the library in August 2026. It roughly will be a 6-month process to find a new Executive Director. Director Bero has recommended the board start now to put together a package that would be attractive for a new Director. Things to consider in the search is breadth of candidate area: national, mid-west, state-wide or local search. An Illinois resident will have an advantage regarding Illinois laws. Involving staff during the interview process would be recommended. Director Bero will help with the process of the search. He would like to have everything ready to publish in February and have it on the website for candidates to look at.

Discussion: None

Adjournment: Trustee Dumoulin motioned for the meeting to be adjourned, seconded by Trustee Alberth. President Wallace adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m. Closing of the meeting was approved by voice-vote consensus.

The next Regular Board Meeting is at 7:00 pm on Monday, December 22, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Luhman, Recording Secretary

Kim Alberth, Board Secretary