

LaGrange County Public Library Board Meeting  
Thursday, August 21, 2025  
**LaGrange County Public Library**  
**Main Library Community Room**  
**203 W. Spring St., LaGrange, IN 46761**

Board members present: Jody Blake, Daniel Hobbs, Rita Lehner, Sam Plew, Maranda Randol, Gloria Sherwood, Jerry White

Others present: Richard Kuster, Anna Mendoza, Deb Gulley

**The 2026 Budget Public Hearing was called to order by board president Jody Blake at 5:32 p.m.** It was noted that the Budget and Notice of Public Hearing had been published according to requirements. With no one present to comment or question the budget, **Jerry moved to adjourn the hearing. Rita seconded. The hearing was adjourned with no further discussion.** The second hearing and adoption of the budget will take place on Thursday, September 18 prior to the regular meeting of the Library Board.

**Jody Blake called the regular meeting of the Library Board to order at 5:35 p.m.**

Jody called for a review of the July minutes. **Rita made a motion to approve the minutes of the July meeting as written. Gloria seconded. Minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote of the board with no further discussion.**

**Public Comments:** None

**Treasurer's Report:** Richard reviewed the fund balances report (attached). Discussion was held on how government cuts may impact the budget of the library. The 2026 budget should not be affected, and future impacts beyond that are unknown at this time. **Rita made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Sam seconded. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote of the board with no further discussion.**

**Reports and Claims:** Anna presented reports and claims. Claims included checks 30895 through 30953 written out of the Operating account, checks 1202-1203 written out of the Gift account, and checks 1049-1050 written from the grant account for total disbursements of \$210,478.99. The final construction payment should be made by the end of August. **Rita made a motion to approve the Reports and Claims as presented. Sam seconded. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote of the board with no further discussion.**

**Director's Report:**

- Richard noted that this is his 119<sup>th</sup> consecutive, and last, board meeting. His tenure as director of the LaGrange County Public Library will end as of August 31, 2025.
- Tonight was the first public hearing on the 2026 budget for the library. The second public hearing will be prior to next month's meeting, with the Budget Resolution presented for adoption and signing by the Board. The draft of the Resolution was passed for review.
- The quote for insurance was presented from Indiana Farmer's Insurance through Hostetler & Young Insurance Agency (attached). It includes the commercial policy, worker's comp. policy, commercial auto, and commercial umbrella for a total of \$17,164.00. During discussion it was noted that no other quotes were received, however this package was more than reasonable and would not probably be under-bid by another firm. **Jerry made the motion to accept the quote. Sam seconded. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote of the board with no further discussion.**
- The update of the Shipshewana Branch construction notes the one light fixture is missing. The new carpet in the original part of the building and the repositioning of the main desk will be done about September

15. This will involve emptying and removing the bookcases, moving the main desk, laying the carpet and repositioning the book shelves and books. A fire-suppression system is being installed in the book drop and shelving for the new addition is expected approximately November 1. An open house will be planned for the end of November, assuming no unexpected delays.

- The Strategic Plan documents were presented to each board member. The key part to note is the "Action Plan." The remaining pages are background. This report also includes a feasibility study regarding the improvement and expansion of the Topeka Branch.
- A Resolution was presented authorizing the Assistant Director to assume the duties of the director following his retirement on August 31 (attached). **Sam made a motion to approve the resolution as written. Maranda seconded. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote of the board with no further discussion.**

**Hiring Committee Report:** Rita reported that the job listing for the Director position has been posted. It will remain for 8 weeks, unless we remove it sooner. It was suggested that Anna should see increased compensation for taking over the duties of the director. Richard will provide to the board a list of library director wages for comparable libraries in the area for consideration of increase. The board will meet in executive session on August 29 at 5:00 p.m. to discuss.

**Personnel Committee Report:** None

**Facilities Committee Report:** No revised quote has yet been received from the window cleaning company.

**Policy & Procedures Committee Report:** Jody reported that the committee has met and are still working on some sections of the Policy. One item that is suggested is that board members be asked to call or notify in advance if they will not be able to attend a meeting.

**Correspondence to the Board:** The PLAC Report was presented for signing by the board.

**Old Business:** It was reported that the indigent individual has been provided a page of resource information. There have been comments and complaints regarding the dogs being aggressive toward library patrons. Jody noted that the library might possibly need to take action to avoid liability issues. Perhaps NO LOITERING signs could reduce that liability.

**New Business:** None

**At 6:44 p.m. Rita made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Sam seconded. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote of the board with no further discussion.**

The next meeting of the board will be held Thursday, September 18 at 5:30 p.m. at the LaGrange Main Library.

*Minutes typed and submitted by Debra Gulley, Recording Secretary*

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Jody Blake: \_\_\_\_\_

Dan Hobbs: \_\_\_\_\_

Rita Lehner: \_\_\_\_\_

Maranda Randol: \_\_\_\_\_

Sam Plew: \_\_\_\_\_

Gloria Sherwood: \_\_\_\_\_

Jerry White: \_\_\_\_\_