LaGrange County Public Library Board Meeting
Wednesday, April 15, 2026
LaGrange County Public Library
Main Library Community Room
203 W. Spring St, LaGrange, IN 46761

Board members present: Jody Blake, Shannon Chavis, Daniel Hobbs, Rita Lehner, Sam Plew, Maranda Randol, Gloria Sherwood.

Board members absent: none

Others present: Anna Mendoza, Deb Gulley

Board President Dan Hobbs called the regular meeting of the Library Board to order at 5:08 p.m.

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

Public Comments: None

Treasurer's Report: Unavailable at meeting time. Report will be available for review with next month's report.

Reports and Claims: Anna presented reports and claims. Claims included checks 31376 through 31429 written out of the Operating account, and checks 1223-1225 written out of the Gift account, for total disbursements of $120,181.66. **Sam made a motion to approve the Reports and Claims as presented. Jody seconded. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote of the board with no further discussion.**

Director's Report:

- Anna reported that she has scheduled a meeting with Jen Hiler. They will be meeting monthly for smooth communication.
- A new employee is being trained for shifts at the branches, with one more employee hire anticipated due to the resignation of current employee Jack Miller who is moving to Florida.
- The State Library report is complete and ready for review by, and signature of, the library board president. Dan will do so at 1:00 on Friday, April 17.
- Anna reported that on Friday, April 10 she met in Angola with a group of area library directors. She indicated that they are a very supportive and helpful group of peers.
- The staffing report from the end of March was reviewed. Summer interns will start to be shown in the next report.
- The statistical report was presented. It was noted that games and puzzles are now included in the report, as they are increasing in inventory and gaining popularity with patrons. They are currently only available in LaGrange, but stocking at Topeka and Shipshewana is in progress. Dan suggested having copies of instructions on file in case of loss.
- Updates:
    - Pest control has been called for Shipshewana after an unknown insect was found.
    - The landscaping company used at LaGrange has provided a quote for service at Shipshewana. Mowing will be $50 per week. A quote for service of mowing, landscaping rocks and plants at Topeka will be forthcoming.
    - Jody mentioned that the striping in the parking lot could use updating. Anna already has a contact for that service and will call.
    - Anna reported that the LaGrange County Communities Youth Council received a grant to be used for an after-school program. They reached out to the library for a list of things they might

purchase for the library to be used by youth. It was decided that a 3-D printer would be a valuable asset and it was purchased by the LCCYC and has been received at the library. Jody asked if the board could sign a thank you note to the LCCYC.

Personnel Committee Report: (Dan, Jody, Sam) Nothing to report.

Facilities Committee Report: (Rita, Maranda, Shannon) Rita reported that she has received a quote of $572.12 from an Elkhart company to replace the broken windows in the original library wing. She noted that it would be new glass, not old glass used in the replacement. They require 50% down prior to start of work. A discussion was held regarding the availability of old glass for the project. Sam reported that Pella sells old glass as “architectural glass”, Dan reported that Cherry Pickers in Shipshewana would possibly have old glass, and Anna and Sam noted that they have old glass that could possibly be used.

Policy & Procedures Committee Report: (Jody, Gloria, Dan) Jody reported that the committee had met and would be making changes to the by-laws. They will post a public notice as required, then vote at a future meeting. It was also reported that current bylaws state that a new member to the board should be a minimum 2 year resident of the representative district upon appointment. Shannon would not qualify, but other previous board members would also not have qualified. It was decided that the current board will stand as appointed with the 2 year residency requirement to be followed going forward.

Correspondence to the Board: A notice was received from the planning and zoning committee in Shipshewana about an issue that was deemed to have no impact on the Shipshewana Library.

Old Business:

- The signature card at the bank still needs to be signed by Dan with Sarah, who is leaving on vacation. They will meet to do that when she returns.
- Dan questioned a quote for new lights over the desks at Topeka and LaGrange. Anna noted that the quote is in progress.
- Dan questioned the lack of security systems at the libraries. Anna reported that she has already contacted a provider and is waiting for their assessment.
- Anna noted that she has also contacted roofing companies to address the ongoing leaks at LaGrange.
- Dan asked about the meeting with the bookmobile company that Anna and Burdette had. Anna reported that they can build them for approximately $300,000, with a model similar to ours at $500,000. To refurbish our current bookmobile would cost $250,000, not including the engine. The lead time would be 4-6 months, so no decision is needed immediately.

New Business:

- Jody stressed the importance of having an open house event at the Shipshewana Branch to encourage the community to see the remodeled facility. She has spoken with the Friends of the Library organization and they will be happy to help, with the board Facilities Committee in charge.
- Maranda reported that the Prairie Heights PTO would like the library to start supplying the books for the vending machine there. They will be sending an official written request.

At 6:06 p.m. Jody made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Rita seconded. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote of the board with no further discussion.

Following adjournment, the board committees were re-organized to align with the state library by-laws which state that each committee should consist of the board president and 2 board members. The new committee assignments are as follows:

- Personnel: Maranda, Sam, Dan
- Facilities: Rita, Shannon, Dan
- Policy: Jody, Gloria, Dan

The next meeting of the board will be Wednesday, May 20 at 5:00 p.m. at the LaGrange Main Library.

Minutes written and submitted by Debra Gulley, Recording Secretary

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Jody Blake: ____________________________________ Maranda Randol: ___________________________________

Shannon Chavis: ________________________________ Sam Plew: ____

Dan Hobbs: ____________________________________ Gloria Sherwood: __________________________________

Rita Lehner: ____________________________________