

Independence Public Library

Library Board of Trustees

December 18, 2026

The meeting of the Independence Board of Trustees was held in the Library Community Room of the Independence Public Library.

Those present at the meeting were Laura Blaker, Emily Ownby, Jake Bass, Quentin Stenger, Nancy Dodge, and Matt Rittgers. Also in attendance, Bret Weber, City Council Liaison and Michelle Nejdl, Deputy Clerk.

Meeting was called to order by Jake Bass at 6:30 p.m.

A motion was made by Emily Ownby seconded by Quentin Stenger to approve the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Quentin Stenger seconded by Matt Rittgers to approve the minutes as written. The motion carried unanimously.

Bills were reviewed. A motion was made by Nancy Dodge seconded by Emily Ownby to approve the bills. The motion carried unanimously.

STATISTIC

The library only has four Hot Spots. Laura contacted U. S. Cellular and seven new Hot Spots were ordered. There will be a continuation of the library's current contract with them. Purchase cost was \$100/Hot Spot and \$29/month for use.

The library was given a Memory Kit and it is being set up for use.

NEW BUSINESS

Collection Development Policy

A motion was made by Quentin Stenger seconded by Emily Ownby to adopt the discussed changes. The motion carried unanimously.

Interlibrary Loan Policy

A motion was made by Nancy Dodeg seconded by Quentin Stenger to approve the changes to the policy. The motion carried unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

MISCELLANEOUS

Staff Development

- The library will not close on January 7th for Microsoft training as previously planned. This is not the appropriate time. It will be closing early on January 14, 2026, for staff development.

Library Director Evaluation

- The Director's evaluation is to be done before the next meeting January 15. Laura will send link to the Board members and they will complete the evaluation on line. Results will be compiled.

County Funding

- The County Supervisors received a handout showing the status of library services, a comparison to other counties, a history of funding, and request for funding for 2027. Board members were asked to share the information and encourage library users to contact the County Supervisors by January 16th explaining how much they use the library and that they support the request.

Building and Grounds

- Mark Hyman has been hired to do the sidewalk snow removal.
- The library received the McElroy Grant for \$6300. This is for the green space by the library but we must match the amount by the end of June. There are plans for fundraising. An application to the Buchanan County Foundation will also be filed.

Programming

- The library has been active with holiday programming: Jingle on Main, Ho Ho Holiday, Cinema Saturdays, and Frosty's Workshop. They have been very successful.
- Plans are in the works for a Winter Reading Recharge starting January 2, One Book Indee (to be announced Jan. 21), and Cake Wars during January.

Library Board Training

- The training covered the Board's Advocacy for both the County's Library Funding and sharing the IPL year in review. They were shown how to easily see how much money they saved by using our library service. The Board was encouraged to show patrons how easy it is to access the information.

Board and Staff

- Laura shared that the staff delivered treat bags/baskets to all the city departments telling them that they all make a difference. This was to act on the goal of supporting other city departments.
- Several board members terms of service will be ending and they were encouraged to consider continuing their service.
- Insurance cost for 2027 has risen to \$39000 a year which is \$6000 more than what we had in our preliminary budget.
- Laura will be on vacation December 22-January 2, 2026, and January 22-February 2, 2026.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Quentin Stenger and seconded by Emily Ownby to adjourn the meeting. Motion was carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Nancy Dodge

Secretary Pro-Tem

