

Independence Public Library  
Library Board of Trustees  
January 15, 2026

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

Those present at the meeting were Laura Blaker, Robin Bleichner, Quentin Stenger, Deb Clark, Matt Rittgers, and Jake Bass. Also in attendance, Bret Weber, City Council Liaison, Michelle Nejdil Deputy Clerk.

The meeting was called to order by Robin Bleichner at 6:30 p.m.

A motion was made by Jake Bass, seconded by Matt Rittgers to approve the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Matt Rittgers and seconded by Quentin Stenger to approve the minutes with the correct spelling of Nancy's last name on page 2. The motion carried unanimously.

Bills were reviewed. Motion made by Matt Rittgers and seconded by Quentin Stenger to approve the bills as amended by Laura. The motion carried unanimously.

## **STATISTICS**

Discussed the difference between Outside of Buchanan County Circulation (Open Access) versus Items Loaned to Other Libraries (Access Plus).

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### Library Director Evaluation

Great evaluation and positive comments. Keep up the great work.

### BCCF Grant

A motion was made by Jake Bass and seconded by Quentin Stenger to approve the BCCF grant application to go towards park improvements, expanding use of the area and making it more functional.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

### County Funding & Advocacy

Quentin suggested talking with county supervisors about the importance of improved funding and becoming more knowledgeable about library budgets.

### Library Park and Fundraising

The snow removal issue is due to the person contracted not living near the library. The library continues to look for a replacement. The cleaning company is lacking in a few areas. Laura has had several discussions with the manager. We hope to see a better outcome.

### Lamont Public Library

Lamont has a new Library Director. The trustees agreed that the new director in Lamont will benefit from visiting Laura and staff for help in her new role.

### Library Board Training

The training covered how the library receives funds from the state, county, and city. Learned how the foundations attached to the library help in funding to cover library expenses.

### Board and Staff Reports

Laura will be on vacation from Jan 22nd to Feb 2<sup>nd</sup>. Terms ending for Jake, Emily, and Nancy. Tax season has started and Jake stated that the volunteers will be using the Library Community Room from Feb 6<sup>th</sup> to April 10<sup>th</sup> on Fridays. May 2<sup>nd</sup> from 10:00 to 2:00, the library will be holding a fundraising event.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Nancy Dodge and seconded by Quentin Stenger to adjourn the meeting. Motion was carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted  
Deb Clark  
Secretary