

Record of Proceedings

**Adams County Public Library
Board of Trustees Regular Meeting
West Union Public Library
June 11, 2025 – 5:30 p.m.**

The Adams County Public Library Board of Trustees met on June 11, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. for a regular meeting at North Adams Public Library.

Phil Rhonemus called the meeting to order. Members present were Kayla Bowman, Linda Stepp, Linda Worley, Elaine Lafferty, and Holly Johnson. Sarah Shelton was excused. Also present was Executive Director Nicholas Slone.

There was no public participation.

Minutes of the previous Board of Trustees meeting were reviewed and discussed.

Motion #1 made by Elaine Lafferty, seconded by Linda Stepp **to approve the minutes of the meeting held May 14, 2025.** Motion carried. All yeas.

Report of Fiscal Officer

The financial reports submitted by the Fiscal Officer were reviewed and discussed.

Motion #2 made by Holly Johnson, seconded by Kayla Bowman **to accept the financial reports of the Fiscal Officer and approve the payment of bills.** Motion carried. All yeas.

The results of the agreed upon procedures audit were discussed. Long-term outstanding checks and board approval of grant appropriations were the only items noted.

Motion #3 made by Linda Worley, seconded by Elaine Lafferty **to approve the County Tax Budget as presented by the Fiscal Officer.** Motion carried. All yeas.

Report of Executive Director

Nick reviewed our statistics reports and Public Services report for May. Applications for the Imagination Library are up. Family Traditions Animal Adventure was a success for kicking off the summer reading program.

A board member asked if the summer food service program has a cost to the library. Nick stated that it did not cost the library.

Nick stated that Josh is continuing work on the new library website design. Accessibility issues are being addressed. Internet speeds should be increasing soon.

T-Mobile and AT&T are not moving forward with hotspots. The hotspot program will be ending June 28, 2025.

Ohio Goes to the Movies grant for next year was discussed.

Roof leak at West Union and its repair was discussed.

Nick met with Linda Ritchey, new head of the arts council, about doing some collaborative fundraising.

Motion #4 made by Holly Johnson, seconded by Kayla Bowman, **to accept donations, acknowledge volunteer services, and approve library support group activities as requested.** Motion carried. All yeas.

Old Business

Phil Rhonemus reported Linda Stepp has been reappointed as a trustee but she only wishes to serve for two years.

6:03 pm Motion #5 made by Holly Johnson, seconded by Linda Stepp, **to enter into Executive Session to discuss the employment and compensation of employees (ORC 121.22 (G)(1)).** Roll call, Phil Rhonemus—yea, Kayla Bowman—yea, Linda Stepp—yea, Linda Worley—yea, Elaine Lafferty—yea, and Holly Johnson – yea.

6:07 p.m. Reconvene in regular session.

Motion #6 made by Elaine Lafferty, seconded by Linda Stepp, **to adopt Resolution 02-2025 appointing Howard Steven Harris as Fiscal Officer at an annual salary of \$43,732 at 29 hours per week, effective June 16, 2025.** Roll call, Phil Rhonemus—yea, Kayla Bowman—yea, Linda Stepp—yea, Linda Worley—yea, Elaine Lafferty—yea, and Holly Johnson – yea.

Motion #7 made by Elaine Lafferty, seconded by Linda Stepp, **to appoint Tara Dryden as Deputy Fiscal Officer at \$30.16 per hour, effective June 16, 2025.** Motion carried. All yea.

Motion #8 made by Elaine Lafferty, seconded by Kayla Bowman, **to amend 2025 appropriations to include \$1050.00 in Special Revenue grant funding for the LSTA Summer Library Program Grant project retroactive to May 14, 2025.** Roll call, Phil Rhonemus—yea, Kayla Bowman—yea, Linda Stepp—yea, Linda Worley—yea, Elaine Lafferty—yea, and Holly Johnson – yea.

Motion #9 made by Elaine Lafferty, seconded by Holly Johnson, **to accept the donation from the Adams County Courts in the amount of \$1,500.00 in support of the Summer Reading Program, retroactive to May 14, 2025.** Motion carried. All yea.

Nick discussed the state budget for the upcoming state budget cycle. The Public Library Fund for FYE 6/30/26 will be funded at \$490 million and \$500 million for 6/30/27 compared to funding of \$504 million for FYE 6/30/25. In addition, funding for state level library agencies will come out of the PLF which have not come the PLF in prior years.

Nick is working on contingency plans. One clerk is leaving this summer and will not be replaced. The Fiscal Officer position is being changed to part-time. Custodial staff in Manchester has not been replaced with current staff handling the cleaning.

New Business

Motion #10 made by Holly Johnson, seconded by Linda Stepp, **to approve renewal of property and liability insurance with the Ohio Plan at a cost of \$15,206 annually.** Motion carried. All yea.

Nick discussed HB 309 which would overhaul County Budget Commissions giving them broad authority to reduce levies if the they deemed the funds were not necessary for the entity receiving the levy proceeds.

Motion #11 made by Linda Stepp, seconded by Linda Worley, **to suspend the July 9, 2025 board of trustees meeting.** Motion carried. All yea.

Adjournment

Motion #12 made by Linda Stepp, seconded by Holly Johnson **since there is no further business, the meeting is adjourned to meet in regular session at the West Union Public Library, Wednesday, August 13, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.**

Secretary

President