

**Ella Johnson Memorial Public Library
109 S. State Street, Hampshire, IL 60140
Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees
November 25, 2024**

Call to Order: President Linda Wallace called the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 7:00 pm.

Present: Trustees Kim Alberth, Pat Dumoulin, Morgan Kolecke, Suzanne Lattanzio, Judy Pokorny, and Linda Wallace.

Absent: None

Staff Members: Executive Director Stephen Bero, Youth Services Manager/Assistant Director Heather Swanson, and Recording Secretary Kimberly Luhman.

Public: Friends of the Library Cathy Czopek, Bonnie Keegan, Doug Pfeiffer from Dewberry

Pledge of Allegiance: President Wallace led those gathered in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Changes/Corrections to the Agenda: Agenda change from 2023 to 2024, also change date on minutes from 2023 to 2024. Add Executive Session October 26, 2026.

Questions/Comments-Public/Media: None

Approval of Minutes:

Regular Meeting: Motion by Trustee Dumoulin and second by Trustee Alberth to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees held on October 28, 2024. The minutes were approved by voice-vote consensus.

Executive Session: Motion by Trustee Dumoulin and second by Trustee Lattanzio to approve the minutes from the Executive Session of the Board of Trustees held on October 28, 2024. The minutes were approved by voice-vote consensus.

Treasurer's Report:

- Approval of Bills for November 2024; Payrolls for October 2024. Motion by Trustee Kolecke and second by Trustee Pokorny to approve the November 2024 Bills in the amount of \$50,965.23 and October Payrolls in the amount of \$57,191.71. The Bills and Payrolls were approved by voice-vote consensus.
- Financial Report-Trustees reviewed the monthly Financial Report prepared by J. Scott Chilton, CPA.

Director's Report:

- Department Reports
- Circulation/Programming/Database Statistics
- PrairieCat AC Minutes-November 8, 2024
- Ella's Friends Minutes-November 12, 2024

Director Bero shared that we have had a homeless adult situation in the library recently. Trustee Wallace added that she thinks moving the chair near the restrooms was a smart idea. Our social media stats are through the roof mostly due to the referendum. We are headed into a really busy time of the year for programming.

Ella's Friends: Reported that the Hampshire Women's Club will be disbanding and making a donation to the library

President's Report: Trustee Wallace shared the holiday chocolate that was sent to the Board from Alex Todd and Jim Deiters, Deiters & Todd Library Consulting. The Secretary of State sent a letter reminding the board that the vacant seat must be filled. Ella's Friends will have a Holiday Book Sale on December 14, 2024 from 10am – 2pm.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

A. Ordinance 2024-11-01 Annual Tax Levy for Tax Year 2024.

Motion by Trustee Lattanzio and second by Trustee Dumoulin, that the board adopt Ordinance 2024-11-01 Annual Tax Levy for Tax Year 2024. The motion was approved by voice-vote consensus.

B. Draft of the Audited Financial Statement for fiscal year end June 30, 2024.

C. Results of the Referendum November 5, 2024

- Director Bero shared the precinct map. He explained the precincts and how the voting went in each one. Possibly the other referendums on the ballot had an effect on our outcome.
- There is a Building Project Referendum Follow-Up on our website. Currently we are getting feedback from the public. Most comments are "I would have voted if it were for one library."
- The question to ask is moving forward do we build one library in Pingree Grove and remodel the Hampshire library? Trustee Pokorny has concerns about a remodel for the current Hampshire location.
- Doug Pfeiffer from Dewberry shared the Pingree Grove site map. One plan has a two-story building and another option has a 3-story building. Parking is what will dictate the building site. Doug shared his thoughts on parking, storm water storage, he will also be looking into the cost of the options presented.
- Education is needed across the communities. We need to explain to them "what we actually do". Possibly a newsletter each week with a "Did you know" section. Trustee Kolecke asked "what can we do?" Is it possible to poll the public and ask if they would support a Pingree Grove building and a remodel of the current building? Director Bero is watching social media closely for any comments and responding to them.
- We are committed to having a presence in Hampshire.
- Deadline is quickly approaching for the spring ballot. The board will need to decide their plan at the next Board Meeting.

D. Executive Session to consider the selection of a person to fill a public office [5 ILCS 120/2.(3)]

E. Motion by Trustee Alberth and second by Trustee Pokorny to enter executive session at 8:18 pm to consider the selection of a person to fill a vacancy on the board [5 ILCS 120/2.(3)]. The motion was approved by voice-vote consensus.

Board returned to its regular meeting at 8:25 PM

Action as a result of Executive Session: Motion by Trustee Dumoulin and seconded by Trustee Pokorny to appoint Ryan Schaffer to fill the vacancy on the Board of Trustees. The motion was approved by voice-vote consensus.

Discussion: None

Adjournment: Trustee Dumoulin motioned for the meeting to be adjourned, seconded by Trustee Alberth. President Wallace adjourned the meeting at 8:26 p.m. Closing of the meeting was approved by voice-vote consensus.

The next Regular Board Meeting is at 7:00 pm on Monday, December 23, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Luhman, Recording Secretary

Kim Alberth, Board Secretary