Ella Johnson Memorial Public Library
109 S. State Street, Hampshire, IL 60140
Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees
July 27, 2026

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, Kathy Eller, Suzanne Lattanzio, Judy Pokorny and Linda Wallace.
Absent: Morgan Kolecke

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

Public: Scott Rihel-Dewberry, Beth Keppler-Dewberry, Doug Pfeiffer-Dewberry, Jared Neuman-N2 Solutions, Jared Kunchandy-N2 Solutions, Tom McGrath-Lamp, Cindy Jerger, Cathy Czopek from Friends, Bruce Burklow-REMAX, Robinette Burklow-REMAX.

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

Changes/Corrections to the Agenda: None

Questions/Comments-Public/Media: Cindy Jerger addressed the board regarding the library's 90th birthday. She asked the board where is the celebration, where is the plaque the Village of Hampshire presented to the library? What are the plans for the 90th? There has been no communication with the public regarding the 90th. Also, is the Village aware of the libraries remodel? Cindy reminded the board that once again communication with the voters is the key, especially if you ever want a referendum to pass.

Approval of Minutes:

A. **Regular Meeting:** Motion by Trustee Dumoulin and second by Trustee Alberth to approve the minutes from the Regular Hearing held on June 22, 2026. The minutes were approved by voice-vote consensus.

B. **Executive Session:** Executive Session minutes held on June 22, 2026, will be approved at the next board meeting.

Treasurer's Report:
- Approval of Bills for July 2026; Payrolls for June 2026. Motion by Trustee Eller and second by Trustee Lattanzio to approve the July 2026 Bills in the amount of $47,316.84 and the June Payrolls in the amount of $37,728.60. The Bills and Payrolls were approved by voice-vote consensus.
- Financial Report-July 2026

Director's Report:
- Department Reports
- Circulation/Programming/Database Statistics
- PrairieCat Administrative Council Brief-July 10, 2026
- Ella's Friends Minutes-July 7, 2026

Director's Report:

Director Bero shared that Summer Reading is winding down. Be sure to turn your slips in by July 31st. The rain gauges the adult department had as a prize were a big hit with the adult patrons. National Night Out is coming up soon as the Pingree Grove National Night Out on August 4th.
Trustee Wallace mentioned to Cathy from Friends that Burlington now has an electronic sign that could be used for advertising the annual book sale on.

President's Report: President Wallace reminded the board that the next board meeting on August 24th there will be a public hearing starting at 6:45 pm. Trustee Wallace wanted to remind the board how much she appreciates the respectfulness of our director and board members. An area library is currently having to censure a trustee with a police presence during meetings. We have faced many challenges and struggles, and we stayed strong through many things. We have been fiscally responsible and can pay for this remodel.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

A. **Semi-Annual Review of Executive Session**
Motion by Trustee Pokorny and second by Trustee Lattanzio that the board open closed minutes of the following executive sessions April 20, 2026, April 27, 2026, May 5, 2026 and June 8, 2026. The motion was approved by voice-vote consensus.

B. **Building Renovation Project**

1. **Approval of contract with Lamp Inc.**
Motion by Trustee Eller and second by Trustee Dumoulin that the board approve the contract with Lamp, Inc., for construction management of the building renovation project. The motion was approved by voice-vote consensus.

2. **Authorization to proceed given to Dewberry Architects**
Motion by Trustee Alberth and second by Trustee Lattanzio that the board authorize Dewberry Architects to proceed with the building renovation project and move to the Design Development stage. The motion was approved by voice-vote consensus

3. **Presentation by construction manager and architect**
Doug from Dewberry did a presentation of the timing and step by step moving forward with Lamp, cost, and timeline.

- Construction Documents
- December/January everything will be out for bids.
- Plans are to move the library to a temporary location during construction.
- Scott from Lamp explained the difference in construction cost vs. total cost.
- How much of the bathrooms will be renovated still needs to be decided by the board.
- Outside changes, paint, lights, awnings and inside window shades need to be decided by the board.
- Any alternates need to be decided on/by the next board meeting.

Discussion: Board discussed the next steps needed in moving forward with the renovations.

- Bathroom renovations and cost. Should the bathroom just have the pitch fixed or do we completely redo the bathrooms? Decision by the next board meeting is needed for any alternates.
- Exterior additions. Do we do that now or wait?
- Windows are a concern as the West window leaks by the adult side when the rain blows in.

- Discussion with Bruce Burkelow about the temporary location. Flooring and bathrooms need to be done.
- New shades for the windows. Should they be automatic or manual?
- Trustee Alberth asked about a new logo design. Now would be a good time to do that with the remodel. Director Bero informed the board that a new logo was being designed by Kevin to be presented at the next board meeting for their approval.
- Trustee Alberth asked about policy updates and where we were at with the amendments? Director Bero said the management team will be having discussions on them.
- Director Bero informed the board that the staff evaluations are currently being done.
- Trustee Lattanzio brought up concern about having to have things approved by the board so the remodel could move along in a timely manner, that she was unable to attend the October board meeting. Potentially others may not be able to make the regular meeting and should we move the board meeting up one week. Director Bero explained that since the board had already approved the yearly board meeting schedule there would need to be a motion made and board approval to change a board meeting. Then posted in the newspaper, website and building of a change due to the date.

Change October Board Meeting:

Motion by Trustee Eller and second by Trustee Lattanzio that the board move the regular scheduled October board meeting to one week earlier, October 19, 2026. The motion was approved by voice-vote consensus.

Adjournment: Trustee Dumoulin motioned for the meeting to be adjourned, seconded by Trustee Eller. President Wallace adjourned the meeting at 8:43 p.m. Closing of the meeting was approved by voice-vote consensus.

The Public Hearing for the Annual Budget & Appropriations is at 6:45 pm on Monday August 24, 2026.

The next Regular Board Meeting is at 7:00 pm on Monday, August 24, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Luhman, Recording Secretary

Kim Alberth, Board Secretary