

**Ella Johnson Memorial Public Library
109 S. State Street, Hampshire, IL 60140
Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees
February 23, 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, Morgan Kolecke, Suzanne Lattanzio, Judy Pokorny and Linda Wallace.

Absent: Trustee Kathy Eller

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

Public: Cindy Jerger, Cathy Czopek and Beth Keppler from Dewberry

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

Changes/Corrections to the Agenda: None

Questions/Comments-Public/Media: None

Approval of Minutes:

Regular Meeting: Motion by Trustee Dumoulin and second by Trustee Lattanzio to approve the minutes from the Regular Hearing held on January 26, 2026. The minutes were approved by voice-vote consensus. As corrected.

Executive Session: Motion by Trustee Alberth and second by Trustee Dumoulin to approve the minutes from the Executive Session of the Board of Trustees held on January 26, 2026. The minutes were approved by voice-vote consensus.

Treasurer's Report:

- Approval of Bills for February 2026; Payrolls for January 2026. Motion by Trustee Pokorny and second by Trustee Lattanzio to approve the February 2026 Bills in the amount of \$31,841.20 and January Payrolls in the amount of \$36,910.78. The Bills and Payrolls were approved by voice-vote consensus.
- Financial Report-February 2026

Director's Report:

- Department Reports
- Circulation/Programming/Database Statistics
- PrairieCat Delegates Assembly Brief-January 28, 2026
- Friends Minutes-February 3, 2026

Director's Report:

Director Bero shared that there were a few personnel changes and that we also are still currently hiring for the circulation services clerk's position.

Cathy Czopek from Ella's Friends shared that they all made it through the winter. Friends are always looking for new members. There are about 15-18 members currently.

President's Report: President Wallace shared a newspaper article about the Geneva Public Library. Their library has added a senior section where seniors can go to find many of the higher demand items all in one location. Health information, exercise, games and popular books. This might be an idea for our library with the new design. There will also be two special board meetings in March regarding the director's search.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

A. Agreement with Dewberry Architects for interior remodeling of the Hampshire facility.

Beth Keppler of Dewberry gave a presentation to the board.

Motion by Trustee Lattanzio and second by Trustee Alberth that the board accept the contract with Dewberry Architects for remodeling the interior of the Hampshire library building. The motion was approved by voice-vote consensus.

Addendum: Dewberry will investigate exterior cost.

B. Executive Session to consider the employment of a specific employee of the public [5ILCS 120/2. (c)(1)]

Motion by Trustee Dumoulin and second by Trustee Kolecke that the board enter executive session at 7:47 PM to consider the employment of a specific employee of the public body. The motion was approved by voice-vote consensus.

Board returned to its regular meeting at 8:50 PM

Action as a result of the Executive Session: Motion by Trustee Lattanzio and second by Trustee Dumoulin to advance the candidates chosen in the executive session to the next stage of the director's search. 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 8:52 p.m. Closing of the meeting was approved by voice-vote consensus.

A Special Board Meeting will be held at 7:00 PM on Monday, March 9, 2026
The next Regular Board Meeting is at 7:00 pm on Monday, March 23, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Luhman, Recording Secretary

Kim Alberth, Board Secretary