

MINUTES OF THE MARSHALL PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD – February 11, 2026

Call to Order: The Marshall Public Library Board of Trustees met on Wednesday, February 11, 2026, in the Dale McConchie Meeting Room of the library. President John Tarble called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. CST. Board members present were Mike Cameron, Jody Green, Janet Hasten, Bob Nelson, Steve Schofield, Jenn Smitley, Melissa Strait, and Herman Wallace. Director Alyson Thompson and Head Librarian Jamie Poorman were also present. Since all members were present, a Board photo was taken.

Pledge of Allegiance: John opened the meeting by leading us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Secretary's Report: The minutes from the January 14, 2026, meeting were reviewed. On a motion by Jenn, seconded by Steve, the minutes were approved.

Several items of correspondence had been received:

- A letter for each trustee from IHLS encouraging them to run for a spot on the IHLS Board
- Several Christmas cards from patrons
- Thank you notes from the Henderson family, the Journey in Faith church group, and the Clark County 4-H Foundation
- A copy of the Zane Grey Explorer newsletter which mentioned our library
- A piece of marketing material from the Illinois Road Scholars which featured our very own Jamie Poorman as one of the presenters

Presentation of the Bills: The invoices on the February bill listing were reviewed. On a motion by Mike, seconded by Melissa, payment of bills in the amount of \$6,479.30 was approved with the roll call votes being recorded as follows: John—yes; Herman—yes; Jenn—yes; Steve—yes; Melissa—yes; Jody—yes; Bob—yes; Mike—yes; Janet—yes.

Librarian's Report: Jamie reviewed her report for January 2026. Twenty-eight new patrons were added the past month, bringing the total to 2,997. Jamie credited that larger than usual number to the "Into the Arctic" exhibit which was very popular. Computer usage was 163; total circulation was 2,766; Facebook views were 90,137, and door count was 4,642. There were 787 special program attendees, and 58 uses of our meeting rooms.

Friends of the Library: The Friends had not met since last month. They will hold their next meeting on March 5, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.

Marshall Area Public Library District Report: The Area District had not met since our last meeting. They are scheduled to meet on February 24, 2026 at 4:30 p.m. Alyson mentioned that Robinson attorney, Steve Greene, has been contacted to replace retiring Area Board attorney, Rich Bernardoni.

Director's Report: Alyson reported that the staff had received their mid-year pay increases. She noted a few minor problems with the staff's ability to adequately supervise activities in the Illinois Room. They are working together to iron out the kinks with this issue. The Illinois Room saw a lot of usage last

month as the “Inside the Arctic” exhibit was very popular. They hope to plan more activities for this age group (pre-K to 2nd grade). A large solid walnut bookshelf from Dr. George Mitchell’s home had been moved to Head Librarian Jamie Poorman’s office.

Alyson gave praise to the Marshall Fire Protection District and the Marshall Police Department for their quick response to a large fire in the area across the alley behind the library. A house and an apartment building were damaged, but there was none to the library or other surrounding buildings. Alyson has been in contact with the owners of both properties to see if they are interested in selling the lots to the library for use as a parking lot.

All the AARP tax volunteers who helped last year are returning. This is our 25th year to offer this free service to our community. She noted that Patrick Sanders has been banned from the library for multiple incidents of aggressive behavior toward staff. The ban is in effect through May 1, 2026.

Alyson had been contacted about applying for an Illinois Art Grant. She is working with the Gaslight Art Colony to submit a plan to place stained glass in the arched windows of the art colony building. The library would work in collaboration with the State and the art colony to administer this grant.

Bank account balances as of the end of January were as follows: Operations--\$190,666.85; Retirement--\$10,000.00; Special Reserve--\$27,091.55; for a Total of \$227,758.40.

Old Business: None

New Business: John, Jenn, and Herman will collaborate to set a date for the Finance Committee meeting.

Other: At 6:42 p.m. Herman made a motion, seconded by Jody, to go into closed session to discuss matters of personnel. Motion carried.

At 7:00 p.m., John concluded the closed session. Mike made a motion, seconded by Janet, to return to open session. Motion carried.

Herman made a motion, seconded by Steve, to include a total employee compensation package of \$203,000 in our 2026-2027 budget. Motion carried.

Adjournment: Steve made a motion, seconded by Melissa, that the meeting be adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

The next meeting will be March 11, at 6:00 p.m. in the Dale McConchie Meeting Room of the Marshall Public Library.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Hasten, Secretary