

TIPPECANOE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

627 South Street, Lafayette, Indiana

September 1, 2026

MINUTES

Notice of the date, time, place and agenda for this meeting was posted in prominent public view at the Library on Thursday, August 27, 2026, in conformity with the Indiana Open Meeting Act.

PRESENT:

Connie Harper, President
Sallie Fahey, Vice-President
Terry Ashlock, Secretary
Stephen Bultinck, Treasurer
Terry Gilbert, Member
Melissa McCandless, Member
Kay Walton, Member

ABSENT:

GUESTS

Brantly McCord, Staff member
Karen Hibdon, Staff member
Lily Pendleton, Staff member
Sloan Marshall, Staff member
Bob Gump, Guest
Jos N. Holman, County Librarian

President Connie Harper chaired the regular Board meeting and called it to order at 7:02 p.m. Prior to the regular Board meeting, a public hearing was held on the 2027 advertised budgets at 7:00 p.m. No members of the public commented. Board Treasurer, Steve Bultinck, moved the public hearing be closed and the regular meeting be convened. Board member, Terry Gilbert, seconded the motion and the motion passed. President Harper convened the regular meeting and requested Board Secretary Terry Ashlock lead the Board in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Ashlock then led the Board in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board member Melissa McCandless moved the **Board Minutes** of August 4th, 2026, be approved as presented. Board Vice President, Sallie Fahey, provided a second for the motion. Mr. Bultinck abstained. The motion passed.

The Human Resources (HR) Report, produced by HR Coordinator, Steve Berman, was briefly considered. No action was taken on the report.

Under the heading of **Personnel Actions**, Board member, Kay Walton moved to approve the **Personnel Actions** of September 1, 2026, as presented. Mr. Ashlock provided a second to the motion. The motion passed.

Under the heading of **Committee Reports**, Mr. Bultinck reported the Finance committee met regarding the 2027 Operating budget. Mr. Bultinck indicated the discussion with the County Librarian about the draft budget went well. The County Librarian shared details about modifications in various budget lines. He mentioned further discussion will

occur during this Board meeting with adoption of the budget anticipated at the October meeting.

Under the heading of **Other Reports**, the County Librarian reviewed the 2027 Operating budget estimate with the Board. He commented on several budget lines that increased and stated the total of the 2027 Operating budget is \$7,336,680. Mr. Holman mentioned he had the customary meeting with the newly assigned field representative of the Department of Local Government and Finance (DLGF). The meeting was informative and helpful. The budget was advertised properly on the DLGF website as required prior to the public hearing. No action was taken on the draft as it was informational only.

There were no agenda items under the heading of **Old Business**.

Under the heading of **New Business**, the County Librarian shared background information and explanations related to the revised draft of the Building and Property Use policy. He also included the suggested timeline and implementation of the policy. The Board considered and briefly discussed the revised draft of the policy. Mr. Holman indicated training TCPL staff to respond proactively and consistently to situations is a basis for a revised policy. Also, he stated at this point, he is unsure if a change to the policy name will be recommended. One minor change to the policy was suggested. Mr. Holman indicated a final version of the policy will be presented at the October meeting. No action was taken.

Under the heading of **Other Business**, Mr. Bultinck presented information on the September 1st, 2026 Claims Listing. Mr. Bultinck stated the prewritten claims are numbered 616-645 and the regular claims are numbered 646-685. The prewritten claims totaled \$372,736.07 and the regular claims totaled \$109,520.68 for a grand total of \$482,256.75. Mr. Bultinck pointed out 59% of appropriations are spent and the claims include a \$250,000 transfer between bank accounts. Mr. Bultinck recommended approval of the claims as presented. Mrs. Walton provided a second. The motion was approved.

Under the heading of the **County Librarian's Report**, Mr. Holman highlighted several items from his report. He announced the Albert A. Wells Memorial Library building plans to celebrate its 100-year anniversary on Friday, September 25th. The Wells Memorial Library, the predecessor to TCPL, was the first building constructed to be a public library in Lafayette. Dr. Albert Wells, and his wife Ellen, were the building's benefactors. Mr. Holman went on to mention TCPL's Foundation transferred the 2025 Annual Appeal funds of \$19,821 to TCPL. The funds are restricted to the initial Library of Things (LOT) collection and TCPL was reimbursed for funds already expended for the LOT. The remaining \$10,000 will be used to add to the LOT collection which has over 160 circulations of the LOT backpacks. Next, Mr. Holman shared that TCPL staff members will experience a training on de-escalation methods and techniques on Wednesday, September 9th in the McAllister meeting rooms. The trainer is Michelle Zaremba, an employee of Mental Health America. Finally, Mr. Holman stated he met with local professional graphic designer, Natalie Powell, about reviving TCPL's printed newsletter. There are several options and quotes to design, print and mail the newsletter and research is taking place to electronically distribute the newsletter.

There were no **Comments from the Public**.

Under **Comments from the Board**, President Harper mentioned the facilities items referenced in the County Librarian's Report and about a "facilities master plan" being developed for TCPL. Also, under **Comments from the Board**, Mrs. Fahey shared information about an upcoming celebration of International Literacy Day. The local Altrusa club, part of the national service organization, planned activities to celebrate the 60th anniversary of International Literacy Day. One activity includes a joint proclamation by local elected officials recognizing the anniversary. Organizations recognized by the proclamation include the Rotary Club, Lafayette Adult Reading Academy, West Lafayette Public Library and TCPL. The activity will take place at 10:00 a.m. on September 8th as part of the County Commissioners' monthly meeting.

Prior to adjournment, the County Librarian shared with each Board member Wyandotte's 10th anniversary tote bag and magnet. As there was no other business to come before the Board, Mrs. Fahey moved to adjourn the regular Board meeting at 7:42 p.m. Mr. Bultinck seconded the motion and it carried.

Terry Ashlock, Secretary

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