

La Porte County Public Library Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Thursday, August 21, 2025 at 5:00 PM CST

904 Indiana Avenue, La Porte, IN 46350

In attendance: Dara Jeffries, Nicole Florek, Bonnie Snider, Gina Alber, Tucker King, Jamie Novak,

Absent: Amy Jackson

Others in attendance: Anthony Novak, Legal Counsel, Fonda Owens, Director, and Ann Shaffer, Treasurer

Call to Order

President Dara Jeffries called the meeting to order at 5:31 PM.

Public Forum

No comments were made by the public.

Consent Agenda

1. Minutes of the July 17, 2025 Board of Trustees Meeting
2. Financial Report

Motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Bonnie Snider and seconded by Tucker King. Motion carried.

Reports

Manager Reports

Toni Kester Bulger, Holly Trott and Dania Bocanegra presented highlights from their monthly reports.

Director Report

Director Fonda Owens shared the following updates:

- The Board was shown and explained the 2026 Budget. The amount from the Maximum Growth Quotation was used. For the year 2026, concentrate on HVAC and lighting renovations.
- Savings will be used to make up the difference between the 2026 budget and the anticipated revenues.
- The estimated property tax cap credit (decrease in revenue) for 2026 is \$872,400, more than doubling that of 2025.
- Attended a Baker Tilly workshop that discussed the potential implications of future property tax reform for governmental entities.

Legal Counsel

Nothing to report.

Unfinished Business

Tuckpointing Project – Update

The square footage was recorded inaccurately in the JPR bid materials. Every bid exceeded predictions. A motion to approve to not accept any of the bids was made by Gina Alber and seconded by Bonnie Snider. Motion carried.

New Business

Request to Replace Vehicles

Currently, the library has a 2015 Chevy Sonic and a 2015 Dodge Grand Caravan. These cars are used for transportation for outreach activities, between libraries and the Libraries 360 school locations. With annual maintenance and repairs needed to due to the age of the vehicles, Director Owens request permission to proceed with the necessary process to replace these vehicles.

A motion to approve the purchase and adopt the following resolution for the replacement of two vehicles for under \$40,000 each with funds coming from the Rainy-Day Fund was made by Nicole Florek and seconded by Bonnie Snider. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION APPROVING VEHICLE PURCHASE

WHEREAS, the LA PORTE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY has identified a need for Outreach Services to support its operations and services; and

WHEREAS, the purchase of two vehicles will enhance the library's ability to deliver materials, conduct outreach programs, and deliver Libraries 360 services; and

WHEREAS, the estimated cost of the vehicles is under \$40,000 each and will be funded from the Rainy-Day Fund and

WHEREAS, the procurement process will be conducted in accordance with Indiana Code 5-22-8-3 based on the vehicle's estimated cost;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE LA PORTE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY that the purchase of two vehicles is hereby approved in an amount not to exceed \$80,000 to be funded from the Rainy-Day Fund; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Library Director, is authorized to negotiate, finalize, and execute all necessary documents related to the purchase, registration, and insurance of the vehicle.

Adopted this day, August 21st, 2025 by the LPCPL Board of Trustees

Recommendation to add fee for Poster Printing

Since adding the Business Center poster printer staff have noticed that a heavier weight paper is needed when customers want to laminate the posters. The heavier weight paper is more expensive than the basic paper stock. Therefore, a request was presented to add a fee to cover the cost of the paper as listed below.

18"X24" Black and White Poster - \$2.50

18"X24" Color Poster - \$4.50

24"X36" Black and White Poster - \$4.50

24"X36" Color - \$7.50

A motion to add poster printer fees on heavier weight paper was made by Nicole Florek and seconded by Tucker King.

Motion carried.

Request to Set Public Hearing Dates for Proposed Budget 2026

Director Owens requested to set the date for the public hearing on the budget on the same day as the regular Board meeting date in September. She requested that the Budget Adoption meeting be on the same day as the regular meeting in October. She stressed the importance of needing a quorum of the Board at both these meetings. The meetings will begin at 5:15pm with the regular meetings to follow at 5:30pm. The

A motion to approve the 2026 Budget Public Hearing set for September 18, 2025 and Budget Adoption set for October 23, 2025 was made by Nicole Florek and seconded by Bonnie Snider. Motion carried.

Approval and Payment of Claims—APV Bath August 21, 2025

Motion to approve the payment of claims made by Tucker King and seconded by Jamie Novak. Motion carried.

Questions or Comments from the Public

No questions or comments from the Public.

Questions or Comments from the Board

No questions or comments from the Board.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by Nicole Florek and seconded by Bonnie Snider. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 6:26pm.