Hamblen County Library Board of Trustees

Minutes for February 10, 2026
(Postponed from January 27, 2026)

This meeting of the Hamblen County Library Board of Trustees was called to order in the George S. Hale Community Room by Library Board chair, Christy Cowan, at 5:30 p.m.

Attendance: Christy Cowan (Chair), Al A'Hearn, Amanda Baysinger, Cindy Davis, Betsy Dobbins, Devin Edwards, Kim Fox, Amanda Hale, Amy Hale, Debi Hyder, Sarah Egan (Regional Services Representative), Mike Richardson, and Shelly Shropshire.

Secretary's Report: Christy presented the minutes from the meeting held on November 25, 2025. Al A'Hearn motioned to approve with Debi Hyder providing the second. The minutes were approved by acclamation.

Introductions: Christy introduced Mike Richardson who has replaced Stan Harville as County representative on the board. Board members introduced themselves.

Treasurer's Report: Debi Hyder reviewed the Treasurer's Report. She reported that the estate donation of Helen Muriel Lent has been finalized and is now reflected in *Gifts and Memorials* (#3250). Item #5450 records the cost of the roof. The report was filed for audit.

Public Comment Regarding Request of Agenda Items Only:

- None

Committee Reports:

- Finance- Amanda Hale, Chair
  - A motion was presented by Amanda Hale on behalf of the Finance Committee requesting that $15,000,00 be approved to repair/replace the old pipe in the front of the building. Debi Hyder provided the second and the motion was passed by acclamation.
- Personnel- Chris Capps, Chair
  - None
- Policies- Debi Hyder, Chair
  - Debi led a discussion of the Naming Policy/Hall of Library Heroes draft which was circulated prior to the meeting. The policy is based on one from the Bristol Public Library which addressed named spaces in their library. She is awaiting policy approval by Chris Capps and plans to discuss it at the next meeting.
- Long-Range Planning- Mike Richardson, Chair
  - None

- Building and Grounds- Mike Richardson, Chair
    - Roof completion and plumbing repair review
        - Mike is reviewing the proposals presented to him regarding new roofing for the flat roof on the back of the library and sewer line replacement/repair. He will be prepared to discuss the proposals at the next meeting.
- Nominating-Public Relations- Kim Fox, Chair
    - None
- Purchasing- Amanda Hale, Chair
    - None

Unfinished Business:

- None

Public Comment- General:

- None

Morristown-Hamblen Library Director:

- Shelly introduced Amy Hale, Marketing/Outreach Coordinator. Amy stated her job was to "put a human face on the library" and "get the library message to the people." She is the webmaster for the library Facebook page which she said has had 2.5 million views over the past year. She reported on the survey results of her social media post, "What would bring YOU into the library?" and provided a written copy of the survey results for committee review. One of the suggestions was for the library to provide notary services. After discussion and positive response from the committee, Shelly invited the board to prepare a policy for review.
- Shelly stated that she had presented Christy Cowan and Chris Capps with a letter indicating her plan to retire within the next 60-90 days. She will keep the board informed of her retirement date.
- Shelly included her Director Report in the board packets. In summary:
    - Building:
        - The flat side of the roof has been patched but reroofing is needed.
        - Shelly would like to replace the cast iron pipes in the front of the library using funds from the Burningham Estate. Estate funds would also be used to update the Teen Room.
        - Estimates for the plumbing in the back parking lot and the replacement flat back roof have been added to the Budget for City and County for FY 26-27. The budget will be presented to the Finance and Personnel Committees prior to the next meeting.
        - The library is not being monitored by a fire alarm service. Shelly would like to ask the County if the library could be added to their monitoring contract.
        - Shelly requests to put $50,000.00 from the Lent Estate into an investment CD for the library.

- Employees:
    - The Sheriff's department has agreed to do background checks for library employees at low or no cost. Background checking of employees helps with insurance cost.
    - Narcan and other employee training to be scheduled.
- New:
    - The library went live with HOOPLA on February 2nd. Usage will be compared to Kanopy to determine whether the library will continue to use both.
    - The library has acquired 25 tablets with internet connections through T-Mobile for check out (same checkout fee as hotspots). A policy will be needed.
- Other:
    - Summer reading program 2026 theme will be "Unearthing a Story." The library will have a table at the GFWC *Celebration of Tables* in March to promote the program.

New Business:

- None

Regional Library Report:

- Sarah Egan, Regional Services representative, presented a list of trainings and relevant information.

Friends Report:

- The Friends Book Sale is planned for March 7, 2026.

Imagination Library Report:

- Shelly has not met with the Imagination Library since the last meeting.

Compliance with Letter from Secretary of State Tre Hargett:

Shelly reported that the librarians have examined the library's collection and have found it to be in compliance with the Secretary's letter and President Trump's executive order.

Adjournment: Chair Christy Cowan declared this meeting of the Hamblen County Library Board adjourned at approximately 7:00 p.m. The next meeting will be held on February 24, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,
Betsy Dobbins
Secretary