Hamblen County Library Board of Trustees

Minutes for July 28, 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 5:35 pm.

Attendance: Christy Cowan (Chair), Amanda Baysinger (Amanda B), Betsy Dobbins, Devin Edwards, Sara Egan (Regional Services Representative), Cindi Husk, Debi Hyder, Linda Raines, Mike Richardson.

Secretary's Report:
The minutes from the meeting held on June 23, 2026, were reviewed and approved.

Treasurer's Report: Debi Hyder reviewed the financial report. There were no unexpected expenses. The report was filed for audit.

Public Comment Regarding Request of Agenda Items Only:
- None

Committee Reports:
- Finance- Amanda Hale, Chair
  - Mike reported that the county budget was approved.
- Personnel- Chris Capps, Chair
  - Library Director Search
    - The Personnel Committee (Chris, Christy, Cindy) met recently but in the absence of committee members at this meeting, further discussion regarding the library director position was deferred.
    - Christy will contact Chris regarding the plan going forward.
- Policies- Debi Hyder, Chair
  - Drink Policy
    - Patrons are requesting to bring drinks into the library and this is forbidden by the current policy.
    - After discussion, the board recommended the current policy be retained.
- Long-Range Planning- Mike Richardson, Chair
  - None
- Building and Grounds- Mike Richardson, Chair
  - Plumbing
    - The vendor who wrote the Lee proposal for plumbing repairs left the company; the proposal is being rewritten.
  - Roof
    - There is a leak in the roof over Amanda B's office. Royalty Roofing will patch.
  - Open Metal Utility Room Door
    - A more secure door lock is needed for the metal utility room door on the side of the library as it has been found open twice. The door has a

lock on it, and it is not known how it opened. There are no cameras covering the area.
        - The room contains 3 transformers which are “hot.” Mike will call the utility company for more information as to what is in that room.
    - Feces Found in Front of Library
        - Amanda B reported there have been several incidents of human feces being found in the rock in the front of the library. This area is not covered by cameras.
        - Amanda is considering extra camera coverage; Mike will follow up with her.
- Nominating- Public Relations- Kim Fox, Chair
    - None
- Purchasing- Amanda Hale, Chair
    - A proposal to conduct the annual library audit was received from Purkey, Carter, Compton, Swann, and Carter. Fee will be $7500. A motion to accept the proposal was made by Linda Raines; Cindi provided the second and the motion was approved unanimously.

Unfinished Business:

- None

Public Comment- General:

- None

Morristown-Hamblen Library Director:

- Library Card Sign-Up Month (September)
    - As an incentive to obtain a library card, the library is planning to recruit local businesses to provide discounts to patrons who present their card.
- Amnesty
    - Patrons who have lost books may be deterred from returning to the library due to delinquent charges.
    - Mike recommended Amanda B run a report to determine the number of patrons who have lost books. Amnesty discussion to continue.
- Painting Update
    - CertaPro has finished the painting.
- Untresspassing
    - Amanda will follow up with a formerly expelled patron and her caseworker to reintegrate her into the library. The board offers the patron its support.
- Tech Grant
    - The Tech Grant application has been submitted. Money was requested for 8 desktop computers, 12 monitors, and 4 Chromeboxes.
- TOP Grant
    - TOP Grant was received for $4479, which requires a $1119 local match from the Friends of the Library (total of $5598).
    - Grant will be used to update library Wifi devices, add another device for the new makerspace room (the old Friends sale room), and install wiring in the old Friends saleroom for a camera and computers.

- Notaries
    - Amanda B recommended that 2 staff members be trained as notaries. The library would pay for the training.
    - The board agrees that having a notary available is a great patron service.
- Children's Summer Reading Program
    - The program was a success with 434 children registered: 205 finished one reading log, 117 finished two reading logs, and 46 finished three reading logs.
- Adult Summer Reading Program
    - Program will run through August 29.
    - 227 patrons signed up on the first day of the program and 180 came to the first event.

New Business:

- None

Regional Library Report:

- Sara Egan, Regional Services Representative, provided an update.
    - A letter from Jennifer Breuer was distributed inviting library directors and board members to review a packet of materials addressing AI-generated content and how it might affect current policies and practices. The packet is available on LibGuide.
        - Director to consider adding policies addressing AI when reviewing current policies and making long-term plans.
    - Regional Training Schedule has been approved for the year.
    - ReadyTN Connect: Disaster Preparedness and Response
        - Library staff is invited to participate in a 3-part online program with the goal of creating a disaster preparedness plan for library.
    - Trustee Workshop
        - The workshop is planned for Wednesday, September 23 at Jefferson City Public Library.
    - The Holston River Regional Library July Newsletter was distributed.

Friends Report:

- $1500 was donated to the library by the Friends of the Library.

Imagination Library Report:

- Christy attended the Imagination Library July meeting. Book Bus activities ongoing.

Adjournment: With all business completed**,** Chair Christy Cowan motioned that this meeting of the Hamblen County Library Board be adjourned; second by Betsy. The meeting ended at 6:50 p.m. The next meeting will be held on August 25, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Betsy Dobbins
Secretary