Hamblen County Library Board of Trustees

Minutes for August 25, 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. Christy began the meeting with a moment of silence in memory of Dolly Parton.

Attendance: Christy Cowan (Chair), Amanda Baysinger (Amanda B), Chris Capps, Betsy Dobbins, Kim Fox, Amanda Hale (Amanda H), Lisa Livesay (Regional Services Representative), Linda Raines, Mike Richardson.

Secretary's Report:
The minutes from the meeting held on July 28, 2026, were reviewed. The minutes were corrected to reflect Lisa Livesay in attendance instead of Sarah Egan, who was mistakenly included in the attendance record. The minutes were approved as corrected.

Treasurer's Report: Amanda B reviewed the financial report. A donation of $1000 by Phyllis Ehresman was received to be used to upholster chairs in the Friends' room. The donation reflects half of the total cost of reupholstery, which is $1989.22 (due to Mateo's Upholstery). Christy asked if it would be appropriate to recognize Mrs. Ehresman for her many contributions to the library. Betsy will check with her daughter, Deirdre McAdams. The Treasurer's Report was filed for audit.

Public Comment Regarding Request of Agenda Items Only:
- None

Committee Reports:
- Finance- Amanda Hale, Chair
  - The county approved a 3% increase in the library budget; the city approved a 5% increase.
  - City and county will each contribute $92,000 for the roof.
  - Amanda B requested a 3.5% cost-of-living increase for library staff. Mike motioned to approve her request; Chris provided the second and the motion was approved unanimously.
- Personnel- Chris Capps, Chair
  - Library Director Search
    - The Personnel Committee (Chris, Christy, Cindy) recommended that the library director's position be offered to Amanda Baysinger for a one-year term with a performance evaluation to be completed after one year. Chris made the motion as recommended; Linda provided the second and the motion was approved unanimously. Chris will put the motion into writing for signatures.
- Policies- Debi Hyder, Chair
  - Solicitation Policy

        - Christy stated that the existing library policy prohibiting solicitation of any kind should apply to Wynn Collins who is soliciting wills and trusts for the Local Retirement Group, LLC.
        - Ms. Collins has been leaving her business cards at the library, has approached employees about her products, and is posting ads on Facebook which contain a picture of Morristown-Hamblen Library.
        - Chris stated he will contact the company and advise them that they are in violation of the library solicitation policy and that he suspects they may be practicing law without a license if they have no attorneys working with them.
        - Amanda B agreed to document the policy infractions and send a letter to the Local Retirement Group, LLC, giving them 10 days to cease business contacts at the library location. She will refund any deposits made for meetings already scheduled during that time.
        - Chris stated he may involve the district attorney and/or the local bar association president, depending on his findings.
- Long-Range Planning- Mike Richardson, Chair
    - Mike expressed concern regarding his knowledge of library long-term planning and requested to be removed as chair.
    - His request was not accepted at this time. Christy requested that, before he resigns, she and Amanda B review the plan themselves.
- Building and Grounds- Mike Richardson, Chair
    - Security
        - Murrell Burglar Alarms surveyed the library and recommended that seven cameras be added to the existing library surveillance video system. The quote was $10,978. As Murrell is a county "vendor of choice," no additional bids are necessary. Mike motioned to approve the placement of 7 additional cameras at a cost of $10,978; second by Betsy and approval was unanimous.
        - Mike is still waiting for the Lee Company to contact him regarding their plumbing proposal.
    - Open Metal Utility Room Door
        - The door to the electrical room now has a lock on it and is accessible only to MUS personnel.
- Nominating- Public Relations- Kim Fox, Chair
    - Kim motioned that the slate of officers for the 2026-2027 term be as follows:
        - Christy Cowan, chair
        - Devin Edwards, vice chair
        - Elizabeth Dobbins, secretary
        - Debi Hyder, treasurer
            - Second provided by Linda with unanimous approval.
- Purchasing- Amanda Hale, Chair
        - None

<u>Unfinished Business</u>:

- Patron Issues

- An unhoused man was told by staff to stop charging his vape in the library as this was prohibited by library policy. He became angry and insulted and cursed at staff. The police were notified.
    - The man is banned from the library for 60 days for verbal abuse of staff. He is currently observing his restriction.

Public Comment- General:

- None

Morristown-Hamblen Library Director:

- Amanda B reported that over 5000 items (books, CDs, etc.) have gone missing during the period of 2013-2024.
- The Library Card Sign-Up Month has been delayed.
- The library will participate in the International Festival.
- An inquiry has been made regarding a collaboration between the animal shelter and the library. The board suggested considering a September/October event, possibly in conjunction with a shelter supply drive.

New Business:

- None

Regional Library Report:

- Lisa Livesay, Regional Services Representative, provided an update.
    - The 2026 Tennessee Trustee Workshop will be held on Wednesday, September 23, 2026, at the Jefferson City Public Library. Registration is now open.
    - The Regional Training Schedule is now available and includes strategic planning for libraries.
    - The Public Library Survey will take place in September.
    - Bobbie and Amanda B are attending the TEMA ReadyTN Connect: Disaster Preparedness and Response online workshops.
    - The Holston River Regional Library August Newsletter was distributed.

Friends Report:

- The Friends will meet again in October.

Imagination Library Report:

- None

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 7:00 p.m. The next meeting will be held on September 22, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Betsy Dobbins
Secretary