

MASCOUTAH PUBLIC LIBRARY
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
NOVEMBER 18, 2025

The Board of Trustees of the Mascoutah Public Library held its regular meeting at the library on November 18, 2025 at 6:15 p.m.

Trustees present were Nancy Larson, Frank Bandre, Wayne Wilhelm, Suzy Friederich, Kay Connolly, Casey Hoercher and Merly Friedland; absent were Scot Erickson and Jordan Rehfeldt. Also present was Library Director Joel Pikora.

President Nancy Larson presided and Merly Friedland recorded the minutes.

Additions to Agenda – None Public Comments – None

The Board dedicated moments of silence in respect of the memory of Roger L. Grodeon, who passed away on October 31, 2025. Roger served as Trustee of the Mascoutah Public Library for more than 30 years. A beloved citizen of Mascoutah, the city gratefully remembers Roger for a lifetime of service, friendship and community pride

The minutes of the regular board meeting held on September 16, 2025 were approved as written. (*Motion by Suzy, second by Frank*)

Financial Report: Frank presented the Balance Sheet as of October 31, 2025, the statements of income and expenses for the months of September and October, 2025 and the 6-month year-to-date period from May 1, 2025 to October 31, 2025. We have received \$314,623 in corporate taxes and \$90,156 in other revenues and grants. Total year-to-date income was \$404,779, representing 72.2% of budget. Actual year to date expenses were \$329,655 or 58.8% of budget. As expected, Building and Maintenance was very high due to implementation of various repairs and improvements. Frank stated that most of the bills related to the children's area have been paid. Asphalt work is still outstanding.

The library continues to maintain a positive cash position that will enable it to meet operating needs and contingencies.

The Board unanimously approved the above financial reports and ordered that the same be filed for audit. (*Motion by Kay, second by Casey*)

Finance Committee: The Committee met on October 31, 2025. On behalf of the Committee, Frank presented and recommended, for Board acceptance and approval, the following rates to levy for FY 2026-2027, based on an estimated EAV of \$204,872,018.

<u>Levy</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Corporate Tax Fund	0.21574	\$442,000
Building & Maintenance	0.01464	30,000
IMRF	0.01073	22,000
Social Security	0.00734	15,000
Medicare	0.00195	4,000
Insurance & Tort	<u>0.00805</u>	<u>16,500</u>
TOTAL	0.25845	\$529,500

Finance Committee Report – continued:

After discussion, and upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board approved by unanimous voice vote, the recommendation of the Finance Committee to set the FY 2026-2027 levy at the above stated rates and amounts. *(Motion by Suzy, second by Wayne)*

Director's Report: Please refer to the Director's detailed written report for the November 2025 Board Meeting relating to operations and activities since the last meeting, the comparative Library Circulation Report for September-October 2024/September-October 2025, Non-Resident Registrations FY2025-2026 and Library Programming Report for September and October, 2025.

Storytime resumed in September with very strong numbers. Other activities included gaming nights, Teen Mug Cake program, coding course, drop off for homebound materials with nursing homes and several outreach events.

Joel attended several conferences and workshops with great speakers. Kay, Nancy and Wayne attended the ILA Metro East Legislative Breakfast in Edwardsville.

Old Business: A. Water in Children's Area – Construction in this area was completed and it is now in order to pay the bill for this project.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board approved by unanimous voice vote, the payment of \$30,200.45 to Absolute Clean for work done in the Children's area.

(Motion by Frank, second by Casey)

B. ISHRAB GRANT – An invoice for \$2,942.00 from ScannX was submitted for one-year of ScannXtra Care Premium for ScannX OS Flexi Systems with SE software.

After discussion, and upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board approved by unanimous voice vote, the above stated invoice for \$2,942.00 *(Motion by Wayne, second by Kay)*

New Business: A. News Bank Quote for Digital Newspapers – This is a proposal to purchase Life in America Series which allows patrons to explore America's past and present through a wider, more diverse lens.

After discussion, and upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board approved by unanimous voice vote, the subscription to News Bank for \$1,350.00 *(Motion by Suzy, second by Frank)*

B. Review of Illinois Public Library Standards – Joel led a review and discussion of Sections 9-12, covering Marketing & Promotion Action Plan, Programming Action Plan, Safety and Emergency Preparedness Action Plan and Technology Action Plan.

C. Holy Childhood Student Cards requirements have been met.

D. Staffing update – Justine Figueroa has been hired as Circulation Clerk, scheduled to work 8 hours per week.

Other Business: A. Joel read a letter from Ivy Cowen, informing the Board of her intention to leave her position in December, 2025. She has accepted a new role with the Illinois State Library as a Juvenile Reference Specialist for the Braille and Talking Book Library. It was not an easy decision on her part. Ivy expressed

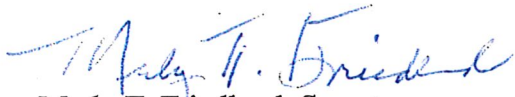
Other Business – continued:

how deeply meaningful her time over 17 years was at the Mascoutah Public Library and grateful for the experiences here.

While we are going to miss Ivy, the Board is grateful for her services and happy to note this great advancement in her career.

B. Finals Night will be on December 15, 2025.

Adjournment: There being no further business, President Nancy declared the meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m. The next Board Meeting will be on January 20, 2026 at 6:15 p.m. at the Mascoutah Public Library, 3 West Church St., Mascoutah, IL.


Merly T. Friedland, Secretary