



Library Board Meeting
Wells County Public Library
200 W Washington St Bluffton, IN 46714
Small Meeting Room
Tuesday, April 14, 2026
Meeting Minutes
6:30pm

Present: Johnson, MacNeill, McFarren, Tabor, Ulfig, Yergler

Absent: Andrews, Mentzer

1. Call to Order: Tabor called the meeting to order at 6:30
2. Public Input: None
3. Consent Agenda: McFarren made a motion to accept the consent agenda as presented, which was seconded by Ulfig. The motion passed unanimously.
 - a. March 10, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes
 - b. Librarian's Report
 - c. Treasurer's Report
 - d. March 2026 Register of Claims
4. April 1-14, 2026 Register of Claims: Johnson made a motion to accept the register of claims in the amount of \$145,019.67. The motion was seconded by McFarren and passed unanimously.
5. Correspondence: None
6. Staff Report-School Visits for SRP promotion: Cindy Burchell presented information about the upcoming school visits to promote the Summer Reading program. This year's theme is "Unearth a Story". Cindy shared that this program is the most important programming they do all year long as it promotes lifelong learning and research has shown programs like this prevent summer learning loss. The program will get promotion at all public and private schools in the county.
7. Committee Reports
 - a. Building
 - b. Budget
 - c. Policy and By-laws
 - i. Pest Containment and Services Policies
 - d. Public Awareness/Outreach
 - e. Nominating
 - f. Director Evaluation
 - i. Director Evaluation Survey: Tabor and McFarren will begin work on this in the coming weeks.
8. Unfinished Business
9. Personnel Updates
 - a. Retirement/New Hire: Ulfig made a motion to hire Janelle Smith as the new Branch Manager at Ossian with an hourly rate of \$32.86. Johnson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
10. New Business
 - a. 2025 Annual Report: McFarren made a motion to approve the Annual Report as presented, Ulfig seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
 - b. 2026 Non-Resident Card Fee: Yergler made a motion to keep the non-resident card fee at \$85, which was seconded by Johnson. The motion passed unanimously.
 - c. Closing dates for Evergreen: Yergler made a motion to approve both library branches closing from Monday, September 21st through Saturday, September 26th 2026 as well as Monday, November 9th, 2026 to facilitate the transition and training for said transition to Evergreen. The motion was seconded by McFarren and passed unanimously.
11. Other Items for Consideration
 - a. **Director Updates**
Community Meetings/Activities attended outside the library:
Bluffton NOW! Board Meeting
BrrrFest Meetings/BrrrFest
Chamber Board meeting
Chamber Board Drug Task Force Committee
Rotary Meetings
Wells County Foundation Board

Meeting Updates inside the library:

Department Head meeting – Scheduling, Interns, Weeding practices, and Policies.

Current Projects/Big Programs/News:

Evergreen

We had staff visit Morrison Reeves Library in Richmond in August. Morrison Reeves recently switched from SirsiDynix to Evergreen. It's really good to hear about the nitty gritty of what is different/will change from a library that has recently switched and is slightly larger than Wells County.

To make sure we are being proactive in our switch to Evergreen. We will be weeding our entire collections from January 2026-October 2026. We typically weed our collection on a 3–5-year rotation, but we do not want to transfer records of books that would just be weeded a year later. Also, we will lose our past circulation stats in the system, which we use when making weeding decisions. This will ensure stats going forward are being reset within the same timeframe. We are also working on breaking the connection of long-overdue fines on material that has been discarded. If an item has a fine on it, even though it has been discarded, the record remains in our system. We would prefer not to transfer this record, so we are breaking the link, charging the patron as a miscellaneous fine, and then removing the record.

-Friends of the Library Book sales

Book Sale Dates 2026

June 24-27, 2026, with Friends Only Sale on June 23rd

October 21-25, 2026, with Friends Only Sale on October 20th

Grants and Large Donations

The library is very blessed by our patrons and community! In 2026, we have received:

A private donation of \$17,000!

A grant of \$7,000 from the Wabash Endowment/Wells County Foundation for Teen programming.

A donation of \$10,000 from the Carnegie Foundation to all former and current Carnegie Libraries.

A donation of \$700 from Brickhouse Farms from their January community donation campaign.

Business Sponsors for the Friends Mini-Golf Fundraiser and Family Fun Night:

Archbold & Lewis Insurance

Parlor City Brewing Company

Bluffton Family Eye Care

State Farm

Bluffton Roofing Co.

Steffen Group Inc. – Isaac Stoller (Family Fun Night Sponsor \$500)

Eyecare Associates of Bluffton

Stylus Technologies – 2 holes

Jerry Flack's Investments & Insurance – 2 holes

Renovate Counseling Services LLC

Honegger, Ringger & Co. – 2 holes

Inteva Products

Outdoor Concepts – 2 holes

Peyton's Northern

This fundraiser raised \$5,271.00

We had 25 sponsored holes \$1,875.00

\$334.00 for Friday tickets

\$1,652 for Family Fun Night tickets

\$510.00 for Saturday tickets sold.

\$400 for Concessions

We were up \$2,555.00 from last year, up \$300.00 in sponsored holes and \$1,355.00 in ticket sales mostly due to Family Fun Night and the ARCADE!

Roundtable

12. Next Meeting Announcements:

- a. Regular Meeting– Tuesday, May 12, 2026, 6:30pm at **Ossian Branch Library**

Adjournment: Tabor adjourned the meeting at 7:09 p.m.