



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

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

Absent: Andrews, Yergler

1. Call to Order: Tabor called the meeting to order at 6:29 p.m.
2. Public Input: None
3. Consent Agenda: Johnson made a motion to accept the consent agenda as presented, which was seconded by Mentzer. The motion passed unanimously.
 - a. June 9, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes
 - b. Librarian's Report
 - c. Treasurer's Report
 - d. June 2026 Register of Claims
4. July 1-14, 2026 Register of Claims: Ulfig made a motion to accept the register of claims in the amount of \$172,030.78. It was seconded by McFarren and passed unanimously.
5. Correspondence: A thank you note was shared from a patron who also donated.
6. Staff Report-Reading Recommendations: Emily presented a feature on the WCPL website which allows patrons to fill out a survey and then receive recommendations for reading based on the answers. Approximately 750 people currently use this service and get a monthly email with recommendations.
7. Committee Reports
 - a. Building
 - i. Jace/HVAC computer system updates
 - b. Budget
 - i. Budget Calendar and MLGQ
 - c. Policy and By-laws
 - i. Workplace Policy
 - d. Public Awareness/Outreach
 - e. Nominating
 - f. Director Evaluation
8. Unfinished Business
9. Personnel Updates
 - a. New Hire: Ulfig made a motion to hire Nessa Drennen as a Teen Clerk I in the Teen department at the rate of \$14.04/hr. for 12 hrs./week. Johnson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
 - b. Absence Request: Johnson made a motion to approve the absence request form as presented; McFarren seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.
10. New Business
11. Other Items for Consideration
 - a. Director Updates
Community Meetings/Activities attended outside the library:
Bluffton NOW! Board Meeting
Chamber Board meeting
Chamber Board Drug Task Force Committee
Drug Task Force-Recovery on the River Committee
Rotary Meetings

Wells County Foundation Board

Wells County Foundation Grants Committee

United Way Board Meeting

United Way Grants Committee

Meeting Updates inside the library:

Department Head meeting –Evergreen schedule/planning 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.

-We visited LaGrange Public Library at the end of April to see how the process of Evergreen works for a system that has a branch and is the largest library in their area. The goal was to know best practices on receiving Evergreen material with transferring to and from our branch, how much space is needed for Evergreen processes, what changes need to be made to our spaces, and how much time needs to be devoted to Evergreen processes. We now have a plan for our spaces. Every library we have talked about the time needed for staff to work on Evergreen tells

us it's about 7-10 hours a week and it is best when only 1-2 people are in charge of doing Evergreen. My proposal next month with budget numbers will be to make Chloe, our Material Services Assistant, full-time instead of hiring someone part-time. This would ensure that the person in charge of Evergreen processing is in the building more often for questions, is here when needed for processing, and has other work to do during time not devoted to Evergreen.

-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 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.

12. Roundtable: Board members were asked to think about transitioning the director's survey to SharePoint to discuss at an upcoming meeting. McFarren also shared information about the Hometown Heroes banners in town.

13. Next Meeting Announcements:

- a. Regular Meeting– Tuesday, August 11, 2026, 6:30pm at Bluffton

-Approval of the 2027 Salaries and Budget

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