LIBRARY MINUTES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
JOPLIN PUBLIC LIBRARY
20 JANUARY 2026

The regular meeting of the Joplin Public Library Board of Trustees was called to order at 4:03 p.m. by Board President Mary Gaarder. Board Members Heather Van Otterloo, Lisa Erickson, Andrea Cullers, Veda Boyd Jones, Jean Coltharp, Emily Stanley, and Jennifer Baldwin, and Library Director Jeana Gockley were present.

EXCUSED ABSENCES: None.

BOARD EDUCATION: None.

MINUTES: Minutes from the December 2025 regular meeting were reviewed. There was a motion by Ms. Boyd Jones to approve the minutes as presented, with a second by Ms. Baldwin. Motion passed. **7/0**

VOUCHER: December non-salary expenditures in the amount of $126,080.43 were approved. **(Baldwin/Van Otterloo) 7/0**

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. **Capital Improvements Follow-Up.** Jeana reported that the Library is unable to make adjustments to last year's expenses at this point, but is able to look to the future for this year. She also presented an article on capital improvements versus repairs. There currently is $300,000 in the capital improvements funds.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Media Engagement

- On January 6, I talked about year-end statistics with Gary and Shelby on KSN's Living Well.
- On January 8, Lori Crockett reminded people to participate in the Winter Reading Challenge and shared year-end statistics on KOAM's Good Morning Four States.
- Book Swap Event
    - On December 10, KSN aired a story.
    - On December 11, KOAM aired a story.

Programs

- There is still time to participate in our Adult Winter Reading Challenge before it ends on January 31. Complete 5 out of the 15 provided reading categories and receive a mug and three tickets for the prize raffle. So far 99 people have finished. Registrations are at 200.
- January signals a return to regularly scheduled programming, after a holiday break. Patrons seem eager to re-engage.

- Book Swap was on December 10, at the Library; 131 people attended. That is a record number of attendees!
- A Teen Makerspace Open House was on January 10; 16 attended.
- A Children's SparkLab program, focused on catapults, was on January 12; 42 attended.

Building & Grounds

- While working to replace exterior lighting, Layne Electric found a short in the Local History lighting circuit; it was a safety issue, but it has been resolved.
- The new HVAC compressor should be here soon. Once replaced, TMI will install a temporary Daikin HERO monitor so they can record system data and report any issues. If there is a future failure that data could help pinpoint what is causing it.

Miscellaneous

- The Library's annual report was released for FY25. By utilizing the Library, patrons saved over 7.4 million dollars in FY25. Materials circulated, Computer Lab use, Passport services, Meeting/Study room use and Program Attendance all saw increases. Visitors to the Library and new Library card registrations were slightly down for the year as compared to FY24.

STATISTICS: There was discussion of last year's statistical presentation. Also, the Library was on a programming break in December.

STAFF COMMENTS: None.

BOARD COMMENTS: Ms. Boyd Jones reported on the recent Friends of the Library Board meeting:

- There have been six renewals and two new memberships.
- December book sales were $784.69.
- Home bound delivery volunteers have delivered 183 items.
- Feedback on mahjong has been good. The sessions resume in February.
- On International Holocaust Remembrance Day, the Friends will present a program of readings at the Library with guest presenters.
- As in previous years, the Spring for a Book fundraiser will coincide with Library Appreciation Week in April. The goal this year is to raise $5,000 for the Lucky Day collection.
- The Library will announce the Joplin Reads Together title on Feb. 9.
- The next Friends Board meeting will be Feb. 9 at 2 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were no Public Comments.

The meeting adjourned at 4:53 p.m.

Written by

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Administrative Assistant

Approved by

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Library Director

The next regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Joplin Public Library will be held at 4 p.m. Tuesday, February 17, 2026.