

**LIBRARY MINUTES  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
JOPLIN PUBLIC LIBRARY  
16 DECEMBER 2025**

The regular meeting of the Joplin Public Library Board of Trustees was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Board President Mary Gaarder. Board Members Heather Van Otterloo, Veda Boyd Jones, Jean Coltharp, Emily Stanley, and Jennifer Baldwin, and Library Director Jeana Gockley were present.

**EXCUSED ABSENCES:** Lisa Erickson and Andrea Cullers.

**BOARD EDUCATION:** None.

**MINUTES:** Minutes from the November 2025 regular meeting were reviewed. There was a motion by Dr. Coltharp to approve the minutes as presented, with a second by Dr. Van Otterloo. Motion passed. **5/0**

**VOUCHER:** November non-salary expenditures in the amount of \$15,985.13 were approved. **(Coltharp/Boyd Jones) 5/0**

The Board also discussed the October 2025 revised voucher and revised Expense and Revenue reports.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** None.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

1. **Foundation Money Market Follow-Up.** Jeana reported that Troy Stovern with True North indicated that the money market account is making more than a CD would. There will be no changes since last month's Board decision.

**NEW BUSINESS:** None.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

**Media Engagement**

- Winter Reading Challenge
  - On December 9, I shared about it on [KSN](#)'s Living Well.
  - On December 11, Lori Crockett shared about it on [KOAM](#)'s Good Morning Four States.
  - On December 13, Sarah Turner-Hill shared about it in [The Joplin Globe](#) as part of her book review column.

**Programs**

- The Library hosted "Jane 250: A Novel Celebration" to celebrate the 250 birthday of Jane Austen on December 4. The program was open to ages 13 and up and featured guest speaker Dr. Amy Gates of Missouri Southern State University's English Department, as well as Austen-themed activities and refreshments. Individuals were invited to dress in

theme or wear their modern-day attire. Activities included a correspondence station, fan making, bookmark decorating, button making, a photo booth, book display, and a snack table with tea and cookies. The program brought in 50 attendees and several dressed in their Regency finest.

- A DIY Finger Knitted Scarf take home kit was handed out in the Makerspace on December 6. Over 100 kits were created and almost all of them were claimed that first day.
- The Library's "A Visit with Nana Claus" event took place on December 6, with 35 people attending. The event focused on kindness and during the program attendees wrote a Secret Santa-style letter to someone special in their lives.

### **Training**

- I attended the Missouri Public Library Directors (MPLD) conference, which was held in Columbia on December 4 and 5. The slate of programs was focused on Emergency Preparedness.

### **Personnel**

- Sabrina Cole & Olivia Ryckman were hired as part-time Circulation Assistants. Both started on December 8.

### **Grants**

- The Library received a Technology Mini grant award of \$19,233. These funds are being used to upgrade all staff PCs. Thanks to IT/Facilities Manager Justin Kelly for writing and administering the grant.

### **Building & Grounds**

- In March 2025, Satterlee with guidance from TMI replaced our entire Heat Pump 1 HVAC system - three condensers and six compressors. In July two compressors failed and they were replaced in August, with TMI visiting the next day to check the installation. On December 15, one of those compressors failed. A replacement has been ordered.

**STATISTICS:** There was discussion of circulation numbers, door counts, and non-resident card renewals.

**STAFF COMMENTS:** None.

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

- There have been 14 membership renewals and 5 new memberships since the annual meeting.
- April 28 is the Joplin Reads Together author visit, the culmination of a month of JRT-related programming. The title and author's name will be released Feb. 9.
- The Joplin Elks Lodge will host a fund-raising breakfast for the Friends, on Jan. 3 at 8 a.m.
- Giving Tuesday raised \$1,550.00.

- January 13 is the next Friends of the Library Board meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** There were no Public Comments.

The meeting adjourned at 4:52p.m.

Written by

---

Administrative Assistant

Approved by

---

Library Director

The next regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Joplin Public Library will be held at 4 p.m. Tuesday, January 20, 2026.

