

Monroe Library Board Meeting Minutes

Date: February 4, 2026

Location: Monroe Library

Call to Order & Roll Call

Present: Nicki Tapps, Beccy Ver Heul, Stacie McCoy, Rachel Purvis, Kristina Cimaglia

Staff: Mallory Hackett

Guest: June Hjortshoj

Approval of Minutes

Stacie McCoy made a motion to amend bills date from November 30, 2025 to December 31, 2025, seconded by Rachel Purvis. Motion carried. Minutes were amended.

Beccy Ver Heul moved to approve the minutes from January 7, 2025. Seconded by Stacie McCoy. Motion carried.

Bills and Financial Statements

Bills and financial statements were presented.

Stacie McCoy moved to approve payment of bills through January 31, 2025. Seconded by Kristina Cimaglia. Motion carried.

Director's Report

January Stats:

480 patrons entered the library

7 new patrons

470 items checked in

490 items checked out

249 renewals

126 items added to collection

79 program attendees

Introduced Winter Bingo which will run through March. Participants receive a prize and have been encouraged to decorated paper hearts to help decorate the library for the season. The daytime and evening bookclub participation was strong and a highlight of the month. The Adult Craft Workshop remain a patron favorite, in January participants created resin coasters, and in February they will decorate wooden heart tiles. The Library will also be hosting a Kids Drop-In Craft on February 11 from 4-5pm.

Unfinished Business

Review Library hours

- Mallory presented a graph of current check out times and volumes
- Survey results reflected a community need for an earlier opening time

- Staff availability is somewhat flexible
- Mallory will work with staff to create a new temporary schedule and will email it to the board.
- Test the new schedule in March and assess in April

Shelter/Landscaping Update (Jasper Community Foundation Grant):

- Paperwork is due March 1st, Mallory will be submitting final paperwork in the next week.

Phil Van Ekeren Memorial:

- Review of land expansion request
 - Presented at the January City Council meeting
 - City Council will need to consult with the city attorney and survey the land

New Business

Friends President June Hjortshoj:

- Suggested our boards organize a meet and greet - June will check with the Friends board to meet on 2/16 @ 4:30
- Shared information on projects The Friends of the Monroe Library have contributed to and funded
- Currently working on grant writing to help raise \$50,000 for memorial fundraising match
- Starting to plan library expansion
 - Current library building is 5500 sq ft
 - Need to start thinking about the size of the new building
 - Will need to have restrooms that matches the capacity of the new building
 - Will need to have easy clean flooring

City Hall Proposal - tabled

United for Libraries/Penguin Random House Friends Grant

- Applied for \$1000 to cover a Movie Night fundraiser

FY 27 budget workshop 2-2-26

- Kim will provide numbers from the budget that includes salary increase
- Will be receiving an increase from Jasper County

Trustee Training (10 minutes)

Chapter 4: Hiring a Library Director

- Reflected on lessons learned in recently hiring a new director

Public Input

n/a

Next Meeting

Date: March 4, 2026

Time: 4:15 p.m.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned by general consent at 5:15 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Nicki Tapps, Board Secretary