MINUTES OF THE CHURCHILL COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

155 N. Taylor St., Fallon, NV 89406
October 23, 2025

Call to Order:

The regular meeting of the Library Board of Trustees was called to order at 3:00 PM on October 23, 2025.

Pledge of Allegiance:

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by the board and public.

Public Comment:

Chair Rowe asked if there was any public comment.

Geoff Knell said every time I come here it is something new. You are here because of me. You can look up the YouTube Channel, Geoffrey Knell, and it explains why you are here. Which, for the Chairman, tried to use me for harassment in '86 for the City. They got that information after I did nothing wrong. She and her cohorts were, and you have the position now, which I hope you are clean, wanted the LBGTQ, Critical Race Theory, and Drag Queen Story Hour. They wanted it to happen. I prevented it. I am the only one in town that does this. The rest of the churches are useless. They twist the scripture, "cherry pick" I like to say, and low and behold, look where we are today. I did not know any of you before, but I do remember this guy. He used to be a Department Head, and he retired, congratulations, I know the feeling. I am a former Navy guy of over twenty years, and I have seen a lot of politics. Oh boy, I got tired of the politics, and technology killed my position. In a way, I am being the future, to let you know what you are. The LBGTQ is depopulation, period. Absolutely. Like Washoe County, the Library Board, Commissioners, and stuff, people have resigned due to the fact that they believe in a lie. So, I hope you turn into what God wants you to be. Moral standard. Hang in there, and you can make these kids events, and these adults, and stuff, and to use God's Word. But I tell ya, it is coming true. 2 Timothy and so forth. I see the time running on the clock. At the School Board, there was a policeman there and I was the only one there. Gave them praise and mentioned what is going on. Wow, that was quite something else. But I hope you have the will to stand up against what is right, what is wrong. What is your stand? Thank you very much.

Chair Rowe asked if there was any further public comment and there was none.

Roll call of members:

PRESENT: Trustee Jessica Rowe, Chair
Trustee Ryan Swirczek, Vice-Chair
Trustee Sari Koehler, Secretary
Trustee Dr. Sue Segura
Trustee Mattie Serna

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Deputy Clerk to the Board Pamela D. Moore
Library Director John Hong
Interim Library Director Penny Esposito

ABSENT: Commissioner Myles Getto

Verification of the Posting of the Agenda:

It was verified by Pamela D. Moore, Deputy Clerk to the Board, that the Agenda for this meeting was posted on the 16th day of October, 2025, between the hours of 1:00 and 5:00 PM at all of the locations listed on the Agenda, in accordance with NRS 241.

Consideration and possible action re: Approval of Agenda as submitted or revised:

Trustee Ryan Swirczek made a motion to approve the Agenda as submitted. Trustee Mattie Serna seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Consideration and possible action re: Approval of the Minutes of the meeting held on:

A- October 16, 2025 - Special Meeting
FISCAL IMPACT: N/A
EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A
FUNDING SOURCE: N/A
ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Trustee Ryan Swirczek made a motion to approve the Minutes of the special meeting held on October 16, 2025, as presented. Trustee Sari Koehler seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Library Board of Trustees' Report:

Chair Rowe expressed gratitude to Pam for work she did to get the meeting up and running and the work that she has done for the board. She also thanked Penny for being so fantastic, taking the Interim Director position. She has been so appreciated by staff and patrons, as well.

Member Serna echoed Chair Rowe's comments. There are so many people instrumental in bringing all of this together.

Vice-Chair Swirczek welcomed John Hong, stating, I appreciate that you accepted the position and moved to Fallon. Thank you to Penny for all your work over the past few months.

Member Koehler echoed the previous comments and said there is not a correct adverb or adjective to express her appreciation of Penny's hard work. I also want to thank Mr. Hong, and I am excited to get things going. I also want to thank Tom Patterson and the other staff for their hard work.

Dr. Sue Segura said I can't thank Penny enough for her hard work. She rose up to all the expectations that I had. John, all I can say is hold on and get ready. I am so excited.

Library Director's Report:

A- The Library Director will provide an update on staffing, statistics, calendar, and other matters pertaining to Library functions.
The Library Director will provide an update on staffing, statistics, calendar, and other matters pertaining to Library functions.
FISCAL IMPACT: N/A
EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A
FUNDING SOURCE: N/A
ACTION REQUESTED: None; Informational Only

Mr. Hong said I am very excited to be here as the new Library Director, and I just want to thank the board with the support of their vision, and the wonderful library staff who are doing great work, and of course, Penny, who has been giving me a lot of information and setting the groundwork. I believe the library has great potential for building a strong organizational staff as we hire, and as we have outreach partnerships that exist around the community, and, of course, building community relations, because that will drive the direction of the library. I will be observing today's board meeting and letting Penny take the lead, but I look forward to future conversations.

Ms. Esposito stated she appreciates all the gratitude, and it has been a pleasure. I have learned so much and have met so many kind people. As I worked out of the county for the better part of twenty years, frankly I did not know how supportive this community can be.

Ms. Esposito asked if the board had any questions about the statistical report. Dr. Segura expressed her appreciation for the format of this report and the pie charts. She asked Mr. Hong to continue this going forward. Ms. Esposito thanked the Love Fallon volunteers for painting the top post and doing a great job. Ms. Esposito said she will not read the report since the board has had the packet and has been able to read it. However, there are a couple of updates that were not included in the report due to timing. For your information, the library has used Booker & Taylor as the book vendor, but they unexpectedly went out of business. We had about two hundred books ordered with them. The new vendor is Ingram Library Services, which we have used in the past. Magdalena was able to get a new representative, and within five days we received ninety-seven books. The pricing between the two companies is very similar. Regarding the budget and security concerns, we learned that all the inner doors cannot be locked from the office side. If we needed to secure in place, we are unable to do so. We have reached out to the Facilities Department and asked to get those changed. If they do not have any used locks in stock, they will need to purchase new ones, which could be about four hundred dollars each. That would be an extra budget item, as we do not have facilities expenses as a line item in the budget. We are excited about the upcoming Frankentoy event and are hoping for a great turnout. The focus will be for Mr. Hong and staff to find a more effective ways to market events and programs.

Chair Rowe stated that she appreciates all the highlights Ms. Esposito put in to help her know how the community and the library were working together, noticing the volunteer piece and loved that the Frankentoy event is bringing patrons into the library to interact with staff.

New Business:

A- Consideration and possible action re: Approval of the monthly Budget Reports for September 2025.
The monthly budget report for September 2025 will be presented for the board's consideration and approval.
FISCAL IMPACT: N/A
EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A
FUNDING SOURCE: N/A
ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

The board considered and reviewed the monthly budget reports provided in the packet.

Trustee Sue Segura made a motion to approve the budget report as presented. Trustee Sari Koehler seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

B- Consideration and possible action re: Approval of the Library Gift Fund Report for September 2025.
The Library Gift Fund Report for September 2025 is provided for the board's consideration and approval.
FISCAL IMPACT: N/A
EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A
FUNDING SOURCE: N/A
ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

The board considered and reviewed the Library Gift Fund report provided in the packet.

Trustee Sari Koehler made a motion to approve the Library Gift Fund Report as presented. Trustee Ryan Swirczek seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

C- Presentation by Thomas Patterson, Digital Information Services Librarian, on the E-Rate Training that he attended recently.
Thomas Patterson, Digital Information Services Librarian, will make a presentation on the E-Rate Training that he attended recently.
FISCAL IMPACT: N/A
EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A
FUNDING SOURCE: N/A
ACTION REQUESTED:

Thomas Patterson, Digital Information Services Librarian, reported that he recently attended E-Rate Training. He stated that the training was to help schools and libraries walk through the process of applying for E-Rate funding. When the Federal Government decided that internet access is important for students, specifically, they created a separate line-item charge that shows up on all of our telecom bills. Anyone in the country that has a cell phone or internet service has the Federal Universal Service Charge, which is fifty or sixty cents per month, that is dispersed through USAC to schools and libraries to create and continue internet access. There are filing periods in which funds are dispersed, however, dates have not been released yet for Fiscal Year 2026, but may be January-March, as it was in 2025. There are two forms that need to be completed to apply for funding, with a waiting period of thirty days to file the second form, due to companies submitting bid proposals. The discount rate is determined by the number of students who are eligible for the national school lunch program. That rate is shared between the school system and any library within that district. The discount rate for Churchill County this year is 90%. The potential savings are $3,000.00 yearly on our internet bill. Because the amount we would request would likely be under a certain threshold, we do have some reduced requirement for completing forms, making it an easier process. If we were to add another building and run cable for internet access, we could use this type of funding to do that; we would just need to go out for bid. The major provision to receive E-rate funding is that we must be (Children's Internet Protection Act) CIPA compliant. Currently, we do not have strict provisions in place to qualify, which requires that the board takes some actions to do so. The following is required: an internet safety policy that specifically includes technological protection measures, a public meeting addressing that policy, which can be a regular board meeting, and technological means of filtering any computers in the library that a minor could access. It must block internet access by minors to visual depictions only, of obscenity, pornography or material harmful to minors. That filter must be able to be disabled for adults in the pursuit of bonafide research or other lawful purposes. We do not need to track adult or minor internet use to be CIPA compliant, as schools do, but as a library we are not bound by the school requirements. There is a one-year grace period to finalize the CIPA compliance. Trustee Serna asked Mr. Patterson what technological filter we would use, does it already exist, and is it costly? Mr. Patterson stated we have the technological means, we simply need to activate it. Because there are community concerns when there are filters and blocking of access takes place, that direction to filter the internet needs to come from the board.

Chair Rowe said she appreciates Mr. Patterson presenting the information from the training, stating research is needed to be done by board members, and that it is the responsibility of board members due to the seriousness of the topic and the mission of the library, as well as our mission to the public. If you could provide some suggested resources that came from the training, that would help. I also think that, as you work towards this, speaking with your Director and letting you both consider ways that this may be something to implement, or not, in the library, and how it would affect the vision of the library, and how bringing in filtering system might have an impact on our access mission. How do we uphold our access to information for our public, while also considering some of the safety issues that have been raised from this training. As we all research this, I think it is appropriate for this to come back in front of the board, to have a conversation, as we prepare for the upcoming year. Chair Rowe stated that she appreciates Mr. Patterson taking time out of his schedule to present what he learned at the training.

Trustee Koehler stated that she wants to be clear on the time frames of the grant submittal, asking that the first documents need to be submitted no later than February, because the second set of documents are sent one month after the first documents. Mr. Patterson said that is correct, if we were to be required to complete all the forms, and based on last year's dates, a form would need to be submitted to the FCC by the end of February and put it out into a marketplace forum so bids can be submitted. By the final deadline, the second form will be submitted, which is the selection of that vendor and the refund we would be asking for. The recommendation for timing is that either November or December's meeting, we have that opportunity for public comment to discuss the new policy. It is something that Mr. Hong and the other staff can work on, and present to you, and the board can modify the policy as they see fit. Mr. Patterson stated that filtering is only a technological way of enforcing what is already being done with computer use. The policy explicitly prohibits the use of our computers for any prurient material. There is less concern that we are restricting people's access because they are already not allowed to access it, they are just not entirely prevented from doing so. Chair Rowe stated she appreciates the clarification, especially for anyone that is listening. As we raise these topics, naturally people will have concerns both for access and the safety of children and other residents. It does sound like this is a great starting point for us to learn about this program and CIPA. Dr. Segura asked Mr. Patterson to forward any research that he would want board members to look at. Mr. Patterson suggested looking at case ALA v. US, where the ALA sued the Federal Government to prohibit them from requiring CIPA to be enforced to receive these funds. The Supreme Court ruled that it is not a burden on the First Amendment to prohibit that sort of access. There is strong precedent for this being a justified use of technology in libraries.

Next Meeting Date: November 20, 2025 @ 3:00 PM:

The next board meeting will be held on November 20, 2025 at 3:00 PM, which is a change due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

Public Comment:

Dr. Segura recommended that the board go forward with Trustee training, which this board has not participated in. The former Deputy State Librarian has agreed to teach this every month. Chair Rowe stated that, when we had the opportunity of welcoming Mr. Hong to the Library, Tammy Westergard brought to our attention she had digitized Trustee training available to the state. I had taken Trustee training when I first joined the board. Personally, what I thought was very generous of her, and beneficial for us, is that kind of learning is something that helps a lay board stay in compliance with the statutes. Because it is now online, the recommendation is that we train over the course of six months, and she is willing to come to our board meetings and lead some discussion. She will let Mr. Hong know what links to use, and he will pass that on to us. We ask that, on our Agenda, there is space for Ms. Westergard to help us. She is not available in November but will be in December.

Chair Rowe asked if there was any other public comment. Geoff Knell said good afternoon, my name is Geoff Knell. You are here because of me. What I have said at public comment is why you are here. At the meeting, there were people wearing LGBTQ information. I said, no. Just look at the video. She came right over here, and she wanted an armed guard, a Churchill County armed guard right there, to protect you. From what? The First Amendment and what the word of God says. But she panicked. I am going to applaud you for what you are and what you have done. You have, (clapping), bravo, bravo, all of you. You have done what the Library Board has never done. I am very happy. I have a problem with Mr. Hong, a little bit, but we will have an appointment with your Director. Because he wanted to try to place CRT, Critical Race Theory. And he put out a hot sheet, and everyone said, "Oh my goodness, Republicans and Democrats don't matter." This is the position and the political environment that is around you. I have been to Washoe County, Henderson, Las Vegas and have preached in all the libraries and stuff. I am just so glad and so proud. I am in awe. But you wouldn't believe the previous people, they had to be kept in check. *inaudible* I do not know what you know of it, but your Director wanted it. She was fired; no, she quit. Once she actually did, and you offered it to Mr. Hong, he made the newspaper. I was brought up in the church, and I preach the word of God. I hope, in the future, when I make public comment, I have to because of what you are presenting. I will keep an eye on you, but so far, I am happy. I am happy with what you have. Thank you.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 3:41 PM.

Approved: Jessica Rowe
Jessica Rowe, Trustee, Chair

Approved: absent when approved
Ryan Swirczek, Trustee, Vice-Chair

Approved: Sari Koehler
Sari Koehler, Trustee, Secretary

Approved: Dr. Sue Segura
Dr. Sue Segura, Trustee

Approved:
Mattie Serna, Trustee

ATTEST:
Linda Rothery, Clerk/Treasurer

Tara Adams
Tara Adams, Deputy Clerk