MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RAPPAHANNOCK COUNTY
PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
October 1, 2026
at Rappahannock County Library, 4 Library Road, Washington, VA 22747

Victoria called the meeting to order at 4:30pm.

Confirmation of Quorum: In-person attendance were members of the Board of Trustees: Victoria Fortuna, John Beardsley, Bonnie Jewell, Michael Chamowitz, Patti Peterson, Kit Johnston, Liz Conley and Jen Cable. Also attending: Library Director Amanda Weakley, FOL Representatives Ruth Welch & Bill Nenniger, Rappahannock News Reporter Ireland Hayes and Trebor Martin and members of the public

The meeting agenda was amended, as approved, and was approved as presented.

The amended minutes, as approved, of August 26, 2026 of the Board Meeting were approved.

A presentation was made by Gil Entzminger from Enteros Design to compare the aspects and costs of renovating the existing Library versus the new building proposed if the Library was relocated to Rush River location.

FOL Report: Ruth Welch from FOL reported that they are looking for new members for the organization. FOL is having a tent/bag sale at the Book Barn on October 17th and 24th. During her report , Board Member Patti Peterson asked how much money does the FOL raise with their fundraising efforts ? Ruth and fellow FOL member Bill Nenninger said that they raise about $25-30K per year — through their Annual Fund Drive, Give Local Piedmont, Book Barn revenue and grants – and that the community typically donates $5-7K per year. FOL donates $10-12K per year for Library Programs.

Public Comment: Brett Seacrest asked if Programming Costs were considered in the budget and what that would look like and referenced a Library in Dripping Springs , TX that he had experience with in regards to involving the community with Library programming. Paige Flink spoke in support of the move and stated that it was fiscally responsible so that endowment funds are not spent down on costly repairs of an older building. Bill Nenninger would like to see a further cost breakdown of renovation vs. new building. Madlyn Bynum thanked the Board for the homework and work they have done for this project but also wondered if there could be a monthly cost analysis for each building – present Library vs. proposed new building. Louise Goddard spoke in support of the move for the Library. Eve Brooks voiced support for the move and thanked the Board for their work – and also stated that the move to a new building would be a good opportunity for the community and planning for the future in our community. Ran Beers stated that it was good to see two options being compared – renovation vs. new building and wondered if the Board will be exploring and seeking additional funding, grants and long term fundraising down the road – to which Board Member Liz Conley responded and referenced the Fundraising Feasibility Study that had been done and that there was lack of large donations in the

community but possible smaller gift donation amounts will come and that future fundraising will need to be done. Sheila Gresinger stated that it was a well done presentation and that there needs to be thinking to the future about people and community , as well as the Library building – as demographics are changing. Steph Ridder spoke that she has talked to many different people in the county – families, VDOT workers, teachers, farmers – and that they said they won't write letters or attend public meetings but said , overall – that they saw the benefit of $0 lease with an improved, better designed building – it was a consensus among them that the Library should accept this offer. Linda Croxson thanked the Board for their efforts and appreciated their patience in this matter and spoke in support of the Library move. Maureen Harris asked if BOS has to give approval for the Library move and the Board said it does not.

Report of the President: None

Report of the Library Director: Amanda reported Things are going well, and we have many exciting and popular programs coming up over the next month. Full details are available on our website and at the library.

Additionally, we received an impact report from our Summer Meal Boxes program partner, the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank. The report highlighted that the library successfully distributed 1,652 lbs. of food over the summer.

Report of the Treasurer: Treasurer Debbie Knick was absent and the report was presented by Bonnie. The report is through the dates of July 1st through August 31st.. The Virginia Investment Pool Report was also through the end of August 2026.

Committee Reports:

Negotiating Special Committee: Victoria reported that the proposed Lease Agreement was released to the Public on Tuesday, September 29th for a 30 Day Public Comment period. She asked that if the Board Members have any questions in regards to the lease , to please direct them to the Negotiating Committee and/or attorney Michael Goodwin. Also, to please consider the Lease and to anticipate voting on the proposed move / Lease at the next Board Meeting on October 29th. The Negotiating Committee has no plans to meet at this time unless necessary.

Communications Committee: Liz thanked Amanda for uploading the Lease Agreement to the Library website so that it can be accessed and viewed by the public.

Expansion/Renovation: John reported that they have an updated design plan – but still a work in progress. One new design aspect is that the Library would now have a double height ceiling to provide light and clearstory windows – as there will no longer be commercial offices that had been proposed on a second floor above the proposed Library design plan. Michael inquired as to if the Library would have a second floor in the future and John stated the goal is to keep the Library to one floor so as to be able to have adequate staff to manage the Library space.

Buildings and Grounds: None

Finance: None

Policy: None

Personnel: None

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Open Discussion: None

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10pm

Submitted by Jen Cable, Secretary

Victoria Fortuna, President

29 Oct 2024
Date