

Holdrege Area Public Library Board of Trustees Meeting January 6, 2026

Board members Annette Sindt, Cindy Woollen, Rosanna Meyer, Maureen Epping, Sue Christensen, Anna Sertich and Library Director Sierra Burrows were present when the regularly scheduled board meeting of the Holdrege Area Public Library was called to order at 4:09 in the community meeting room in compliance with the Nebraska Public/Open Meetings Act, posted on the north wall of the room. Board members Lori Larson and Julie Johnson arrived shortly after the call to order and before the vote on the consent agenda. Board members Cassie Ehrenberg and Bill Yochum did not attend.

Consent Agenda: The minutes from the December 2nd meeting, the financial report, and the accounts payable report were reviewed. A motion made by Lori Larson to approve the consent agenda was seconded by Rosanna Meyer. The motion passed with affirmative votes from Annette Sindt, Cindy Woollen, Rosanna Meyer, Maureen Epping, Sue Christensen, Anna Sertich, Lori Larson and Julie Johnson.

Public Forum: Mike King was in attendance. He introduced himself and expressed his interest in, and desire to be involved in, the promotion of a new library facility.

New Business: Director Burrows reminded the board that she is preparing the annual report. She was encouraged to include hardships for the last year in the report. She will have Cassie schedule a meeting with the City Council and with the County Commissioners in February to present the report to those boards. Board president Cassie Ehrenberg will also attend those meetings.

Sierra presented several proposed designs prepared by Ryan Ehrenberg and some additional ideas she had for the library's new logo. The board provided comments and suggestions that will be shared with Ryan so he can make modifications to his initial logo designs.

There was no update from CMBA except an email to say they are waiting to hear results of the proposed meeting between the library board and the city administrators. Matt did indicate that he would be willing to attend that meeting.

Strawhecker has provided us with a new support staff person: Wendy Townley. She has extensive experience working with the Omaha Public Library Foundation. She will be our lead support staff person, replacing Haley Martinez. Scott Larson will be stepping back in his engagement with us, but will still be available for consultation.

Anna Sertich made a motion to accept Strawhecker's Phase 2 Consultation Proposal to be paid from the library's Foundation fund. In this phase, Ryan Strawhecker told Director Burrows to tell the board: their team will run the meetings, follow up with volunteers, and draft agendas. Seconded by Lori Larson, the motion passed with affirmative votes from Annette Sindt, Maureen Epping, Lori Larson, Cindy Woollen, Julie Johnson, Rosanna Meyer, Anna Sertich and Sue Christensen.

Director Sierra Burrows led the discussion to determine our next steps as suggested by the Strawhecker report. A proposed meeting with city officials should be scheduled as soon as possible, hopefully next week. The mayor and city administrator will be invited to meet with Director Burrows and two board members so we

can present our accountability, legality, and process questions, and share the report from Strawhecker regarding the feasibility of conducting a successful capital campaign, and to determine the upward limits of the bond amount that could be presented to the public. Matt Kreutzer from CMBA and Wendy Townley and Scott Larson from Strawhecker will be asked to attend the meeting with city administrators either in person or via Zoom. A member of PCDC will also be asked to attend the meeting.

It was also determined that the Library Planning Committee should meet weekly, Tuesdays from 4:00-5:00 - excluding the first Tuesday of the month when the regular Board meeting is scheduled to meet - to create and maintain momentum as we move forward into the Education phase.

Director's Report: Sierra presented the director's report.

- The odor issue is still unresolved, though today it was determined the old window blinds may be the cause. They will be removed.
- The necessary information requested from the banks has been gathered by Director Sierra Burrows for the board to make a decision regarding best placement of library funds as suggested in our annual audit report.

A motion was made by Cindy Woollen and seconded by Annette Sindt to go with the ICS plan at First State Bank, including CD options for deposit of the gift from the Carnegie Foundation. The motion passed with affirmative votes from all board members present: Annette Sindt, Cindy Woollen, Rosanna Meyer, Maureen Epping, Sue Christensen, Anna Sertich, Lori Larson and Julie Johnson.

- Emily Mumm has been hired as the new Library Assistant. This position is being transitioned into a full-time role.
- All staff members are completing a Tech Skills Checklist for library supervisors and staff (developed by the Public Library Association), to assess strengths and identify areas for additional training.
- Paul, our City/County IT person, has the library on his calendar to finish up the technology projects.
- Work on a new website for the library has begun.
- The library will be implementing a new platform for delivery of newsletters and library updates via patron emails, and will be exploring a new program sign-up platform to replace Google forms.
- Staff development continues with Alyssa and Jessica scheduled to attend a workshop hosted by the Central Plains Library System about utilization of the circuit machine.

LPC meetings are scheduled for Tuesdays: January 13, 20, and 27th at 4:00 in the library conference room.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 5:28 following a motion by Anna Sertich and seconded by Rosanna Meyer. The next regularly scheduled board meeting will be Tuesday, February 3, 2026 at 4:00 pm in the library conference room.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Christensen, secretary