

**Lebanon-Laclede County Library District
Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting**

May 20, 2025

The Lebanon-Laclede County Library District Board of Trustees met Tuesday, May 20, 2025, at the Lebanon-Laclede County Library. President Mark Campbell called the meeting to order at 5:03pm.

Trustees present: Mark Campbell, Helen Sosniecki, Mike Simpson, Bob Scoby, Christine Hutson, Michael Kinion, Susan Sellers and Glenn Lawrence

Trustees absent: Sam Allen

With eight of nine Trustees present, a quorum was established.

Also present: Tina Chaney, Library Director; Erica Semsch, Assistant Library Director; Christal Haueter, Circulation Manager; Eric Haueter, Mark Spangler, Bruce Owen, Kerry Lewis, Jim Lewis, Rebecca Rupard, Tourism Director; Troy Schulte, City Administrator; and Jack Silberberg

Agenda

Mark Campbell made a motion to amend the agenda—moving New Business to the top. Christine Hutson seconded. Motion passed 8-0.

Helen Sosniecki made a motion to approve the amended agenda. Bob Scoby seconded. Motion passed 8-0.

New Business

Tourism Director, Rebecca Rupard: Rebecca gave the Board an update on the impact of the Route 66 Museum in the community. She explained that the passports the library sells in the gift shop are popular and they encourage travelers to stop in—the museum is an official stop inside the passport. Rebecca said the travelers the museum draws in often motivates them to stop at businesses around town. The Route 66 Centennial next year will be a big draw for tourists.

City Administrator, Troy Schulte: Troy introduced himself to the Board and explained he is working to finish the municipal budget, which motivated him to make the rounds in the city to make sense of where the dollars and cents go. He complimented the library, saying it was a “first class” facility and that Lebanon should be proud of it. He said it is his goal to continue to drive residents to take advantage of Lebanon’s resources, which includes the museum and library. Troy explained he’d like to form a partnership with the library and said there are economic development opportunities available. He extended an offer to the Board to have those conversations and said he would assist in any way.

Attorney Chris Allen joined the Board meeting at 5:16pm.

Glenn Lawrence made a motion to go into Closed Session for legal discussion at 5:19pm. Bob Scoby seconded the motion. Motion passed 8-0.

Roll Call for Closed Session: Mark Campbell, Helen Sosniecki, Mike Simpson, Bob Scoby, Christine Hutson, Michael Kinion, Susan Sellers and Glenn Lawrence

Also Present: Troy Schulte, Chris Allen and Tina Chaney

The Board exited Closed Session at 6:10pm

Minutes from April 15, 2025

Bob Scoby made a motion to approve the April minutes as presented to the Board. Christine Hutson seconded. Motion passed 8-0.

Financials Report

Mike Simpson made a motion to approve the April 2025 financials report. Glenn Lawrence seconded. The motion passed 8-0.

Mike said the state aide and Athletes and Entertainers were nice revenue items for the month, bringing in \$27,000.

Mike made note of the museum donations being down. Glenn Lawrence asked if adding a QR code for donations would help to increase them.

President's Report

President Mark Campbell asked how required paid sick leave being repealed would affect the library. Tina said she talked to Chris Meckem and he said the library is not required to participate due to the number of employees. Mark asked her to verify that the library doesn't have to comply and send an email to the Board.

Mark said he talked to Julie Rayl-Gilstrap about property taxes. She said there has been a 10%-11% increase in property value. He said regarding the Hancock Amendment, it is understood that the amount of tax increase will be lowered by the lesser of 5.0% or a percentage as determined by the State Tax Commission, which is believed to be 2.9%. He said the Board should continue to monitor updates as they become available as the increase in assessed valuations will have an impact on the 2026 budget.

Mark complimented Tina on moving forward with the Strategic Plan by scheduling active shooter training for staff. He invited Board members to attend if they can make it. He said, just a reminder--to send out Board meeting minutes to the Friends and Foundation to help with communication.

Mark asked the Board to think of ways to prevent people from loitering in the parking lot and destroying it. He said the parking lot is a new investment and the vandals are

tearing it up. He briefly recommended the Board think of additional revenue sources for the library—especially moving into 2026 with uncertain state funding.

Director's Report

Library Director, Tina Chaney emailed her report to the Board in advance.

Tina said the parking lot will be completed on Wednesday or Thursday night. She highlighted the library's monthly numbers and said she had active shooter training planned for the upcoming staff meeting on May 30 with Jason Riggs. Tina reminded the Board that the Summer Reading Program begins on May 27. She said the library received the other 50% of the funding promised from the state, which will help cover the website, Missouri Evergreen and MALA for 2025. Tina said she is waiting for the new state budget for 2026 from the State Library in October.

She reminded the Board that the Hall of History dedication for Virgilee Clamme is on Tuesday, June 10 at 6pm.

Old Business

Parking Lot Lights: Mike Simpson made a motion to accept Shrode's Electrical Service's bid, which includes replacing lights in the hall, installing a monitor receptacle, tracing and labeling breaker box circuits and parking lot light replacement under Tina's supervision, which can be modified but not cannot exceed the quoted price. Christine Hutson seconded. Motion passed 8-0.

HB903: Tina said she will begin talking to the legislature about HB903 and that she signed up for training on how to communicate with them.

The Board took a brief tour of the Route 66 Museum, led by the museum's previous curator, Mark Spangler.

Public Comments

Jack Silberberg, reporter for the Laclede County Record, asked the Board if action was taken during Closed Session. Mark Campbell said no action was taken. Jack asked if attorney, Chris Allen was representing the library or the city of Lebanon during Closed Session. Members of the Board agreed Chris Allen was serving as both the library's and the city's attorney. Mark Campbell confirmed Chris Allen was acting as a representative of both during Closed Session.

Jack said, referencing the Board meeting minutes from April, if the library director is expected to write letters of recommendation for current Board members seeking reappointment. Bob Scoby said it had always been done in the past.

Helen Sosniecki said she was not seeking reappointment on the Board when her term is up in June.

Glenn Lawrence asked if there was an update on the book locker. Tina said there has been no contact with the company, but the “cloud” is still connected. Glenn asked for an update on the staff emails. Tina said she has the information but needs to get it going. Mark Campbell made a motion that Tina contact the library’s technology support about passwords for staff emails, an update on the lockers and a bid for replacement laptops by June 15 to see if he can get that information to her by June 30—if not the library will review the tech contract. Bob Scoby seconded. Motion passed 8-0.

Glenn Lawrence asked if anything had been decided on a social media policy. Erica Semsch said she and Tina had just attended a library training where they deemed a social media policy to be a violation of freedom of speech, and a liability for a public library to have.

Glenn asked if there was an update on the public’s rights to petition on library property. Tina said, according to library policy, they could not.

Bob Scoby asked why the Board has not seen the Lebanon Laclede Public Library Foundation’s bylaws—saying he thought they were supposed to be submitted by a certain date following the joint meeting in January.

Adjournment

Susan Sellers made a motion to adjourn at 7:21pm. Glenn Lawrence seconded. Motion passed 8-0.