

Board of Trustees Meeting
September 25, 2025 4:15 PM

Rockbridge Regional Library
138 South Main Street, Lexington, VA 24450

Present: Harper Donahoe, Bob Kramer, Mary Jo Brinkley, Alexandra Brown, McKinley Williams, Sherri Wheeler, Steve Webb, Terry Ammons, Pete Pitard, Ann Adams

Absent: Sharyn Billings

Call to Order, Approval of agenda

Harper Donahoe, Chair, called the meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes – August 21, 2025

Motion to approve: Sherri Wheeler

Seconded: Bob Kramer

Approved by the Board

Public Comment

- Members of the public are invited to address the Board of Trustees with brief comments

Mr. Hugh Hendersen addressed books with the topic of gender fluidly. He mentioned survey results from the Trevor Project published on September 17.

Trustees read comment cards

Buena Vista employees are helpful; thank you for everything over the years!

Like the new furniture in the Children's Library in Buena Vista.

Please add Venetian blinds in seating areas in Lexington.

Library staff is helpful and friendly; I love to see them help children in Lexington.

Please add a propagation station for plants in Lexington.

Disappointed homeschool groups have stopped meeting at the libraries.

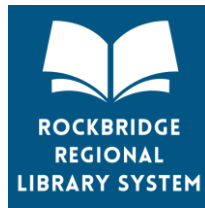
Thank you for making the library friendly and safe. We love Ms. Wendy!

Bath Friends of the Library Update

Pete Pitard, President

Pete recounted the Bath Friends meeting to the Board. Bath Friends approved the funding of an axolotl pet at the Bath Library. Rachael Hughes, Bath Branch Manager, is planning an event to welcome the axolotl.

The Bath Friends also voted to add a small picnic table outside for staff and patrons to use while at the library.



The Friends group has started a Google Drive to communicate with each other.

Christmas Splash Out will take place in December at the Bath Library. Harper asked for clarification on what the Splash Out was. Pete explained it is a party.

Questions regarding board packet

Julie Goyette, Director

Julie gave an update on the bequest from Al Carlsson's estate. The library system will need to replace the delivery van soon, as well as lighting in Lexington and Glasgow. Bob Kramer mentioned that some family members are contesting the Will. Julie had not heard about the will being contested, but she will consult the attorney to make sure it does not affect the library's bequest.

Discussion and announcements

- Goshen proposed space

Harper asked Terry Ammons to share with the Board his tour of Goshen Community Center and the tour of the space meant for the Library. Terry thanked the Goshen Mayor and Vice Mayor for sitting down to discuss the plans with him. Terry mentioned the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) and what it entails in relation to the Goshen project. DHCD will provide the grant money for Goshen to upgrade Town Hall.

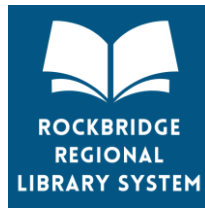
Terry said that adding the library to the bottom floor of the building will allow for more space for different areas of the library. The bottom floor will have an entrance added that will open to a new parking lot, which will be ADA compliant. Library staff will be able to work with planners to design the space for library use, as well as plan an option to have an outdoor area.

Terry mentioned that Goshen and the DHCD will not proceed with funding until Goshen has a lease signed for the space. Terry then went on to discuss the timeline of the project and construction, which is predicted to have a completion date in 2027. Terry believes this is a good option for the Goshen Library space, but asked for other ideas and alternatives from board members. Terry also mentioned having a vote in October to move forward with the space in Goshen Community Center.

Ann Adams asked for clarification on the DHCD lease of 5 years. Terry confirmed the lease terms is 5 years with the option to renew three times in the future. This allows the library a 20 year option to be in the space. Ann asked if the lease will be with DHCD at the end of the contract. Terry was unsure. Steve Bickley, Goshen Vice Mayor, confirmed that the lease for the space will be with the Town of Goshen from the beginning.

Bob Kramer asked about the Rockbridge Area Health Center (RAHC) leaving the Community Center. Would RAHC coming back to the center affect the library's space in the Community Center? Terry stated that the library would have a dedicated new space in the building, and RAHC returning will not affect the library.

Harper stated that the library needs to look at the longevity of the space. The library needs to look at protections past the 20 years proposed in the lease. Harper then asked about the last board meeting in which it was stated the project with DHCD would move forward without the library's acceptance. Terry clarified that the funding is not necessarily contingent on the library, but the project will not move forward without a signed lease for the space. Steve Bickley also clarified that Goshen Town Hall building has two



plans for the space and they need to have a decision to move forward on their plans by the end of October.

Alex Brown asked about how the flood plain would affect the building the library being on the bottom floor. Terry confirmed it's not in the flood plain, but since it is in the basement of the building there may still be water issues. Alex asked about the bottom of the building versus utilizing a different space in the building. Harper stated that the bottom floor allows for ADA compliance. Terry followed up that the bottom floor doesn't cause in load-bearing issues.

Bob mentioned that the library is an anchor within the community and this new building would be nice for the library. He also reminded board members that the library wants to stay in the community.

Sherri Wheeler asked about the preschool program having a dedicated space in the library's new area. Julie clarified that the lease does not include the preschool. Steve Bickley explained that it was up to the library if they wanted to have the preschool in the library's space or not.

Julie asked about the overall rent amount that Goshen planned to take in each month. Steve Bickley stated \$1500 a month.

Steve Bickley asked that the library have a vote on the intent to proceed by the end of October so that they can move forward with the DHCD project and funding.

Harper agreed to the proposal to have the lawyer look over the lease. Harper said Julie should to discuss the lease with the library attorney.

Ann asked about the DHCD timeline and tenants. Terry explained that Goshen and DHCD have a window of time that they must follow in order to move forward with the project.

Harper motioned to allow Julie to pursue going over the lease with the lawyer. Specifically looking at the language to assure the longevity of the Goshen Library and financials agreeable to the Board of Trustees.

Harper motioned

Terry seconded

Approved by the Board of Trustees

- Budget timeline

Julie presented the board with the budget timeline for 2027 and explained how the process proceeds.

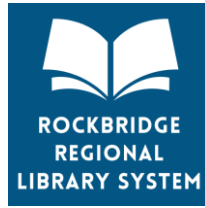
- Harper stated next week he will provide some details about the upcoming evaluation of the Library Director.
- Julie asked for a vote on signatories from the board to add Katie Ramsey to list of library signatories at Cornerstone Bank.

Alex motioned

Sherri seconded

Approved by the Board of Trustees

CLOSED SESSION



Harper motioned that the board of trustees go into closed session as permitted by Virginia Code §2.2-3711(A)(1), to discuss employees and personnel matters brought to the board of trustees

Second to Motion: Pete Pitard

All in favor? Yes

Opposed? None

Time into Closed Session: 5:04 PM

Harper moved that the Rockbridge Regional Library Board of Trustees return to open session.

Second to Motion: Steve Webb

All in favor? Yes

Opposed? No

Time out of Closed Session: 5:44 PM

Harper:

Harper moved that the Rockbridge Regional Library Board of Trustees certify in the closed meeting just concluded, to the best of each member's knowledge, nothing was heard, discussed or considered except the matter or matters (1) specifically identified in the motion to convene in closed session and (2) lawfully permitted to do so discussed as exempt from open meeting requirements under the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of information Act cited in that motion.

Time of certification of roll call vote: 5:45

Adjournment 5:45 pm Next meeting: Thursday, October 23, 2025 at Goshen Library.