Board of Trustees Meeting
September 24, 2026 4:15 PM

Bath Public Library
96 Courthouse Hill Road
Warm Springs, VA 24484

Call to Order, Approval of agenda
Harper Donahoe, Chair

Approval of Minutes – July 23, 2026
Harper Donahoe, Chair

Pete made a motion to accept the minutes. Sherri seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Mission Moment: Staff Development Day
Katie Ramsey, Assistant Director

Katie explained to the Board that the library would hold Staff Development Day (SDD) on October 1 this year. SDD will have demonstrations and speakers from the Lexington Fire Department (LFD) and the Library of Virginia (LVA). J.J. Schindler from the LFD will show staff how to perform CPR and how to use an AED in an emergency. Barry Trott and Jessica Beavers from LVA will discuss artificial Intelligence with staff. There will also be information about first amendment audits with time for questions. Staff completed a webinar from the LVA Academy about first amendment audits prior to SDD.

Public Comment
No members of the public were present.
Trustees read public comment cards.

Harper read a letter to the Board and Library Director. The letter thanked the library for opening the Fairfield branch. Unfortunately, people do not know the library is open and suggested a news article or posters. Julie mentioned to the board that an article about the Fairfield location was in *The News Gazette* the day after the letter was received. The letter also mentioned that the space is very small, but the staff person is extremely helpful and nice.

Pete read a comment about the Fairfield Library. The note read that Fairfield is a great space and the staff member was extremely helpful.

Mary Jo read a thank you note to the Bookmobile for coming to Camp Acovac in Millboro.

Terry read a note that stated the Bookmobile was convenient when a person cannot get to a brick and mortar library. The writer of the note also mentioned missing Bo, the former Outreach manager.

Alex read a comment that stated Lexington was a wonderful facility. The writer mentioned the quiet rooms, the space and décor, and the new bathrooms; and specifically mentioned the small toilet for children.

Janice read a suggestion card from a patron asking about Madame Secretary on DVD. The person would like the library to have more seasons. Margaret, Adult Services Manager, has done research to order the show and has found that some seasons are not available for sale. Margaret has suggested getting missing seasons by interlibrary loan.

Bob read a note from Jen from Main Street Buena Vista. She thanked Bob, as well as Julie, Milea, and Katie for participating in their downtown tour. She left ice cream coupons for all who participated.

Harper mentioned speaking with a family who moved to the area during a Knights of Columbus meeting at church. The family mentioned that they were very impressed with the library. Every place they move, they visit the public library first. They can tell how important the library is to community based on the look of the library, as well as the number of computers, décor, collection, etc.

Harper mentioned his experience with the interlibrary loan process. He asked about the library purchasing a set of books about the Civil War by Bruce Catton. Julie referred him to Margaret. He commented on Margaret providing great service, even though she may not have known he was on the Board.

Foundation Update

Julie updated the board. The foundation board is close to purchasing a new tree for the foyer in Lexington. The name of the tree will be *21st Century Donors*. Mike Strickler has worked with Janice Burguieres to go through twenty-five years of donor lists for the new tree.

Bath Friends of the Library Update

Ann Adams and Mindy Brooks are co-presidents of the Friends. They gave an update from the Bath Friends.

The Friends set up a table at the Bath County Fair to sell books and raise money. Children were their biggest visitors. The group decided doing to do more of children's popups with story times and giveaways of children's books.

Ann added that the Friends put out a call for donations for the book sale for the Fair.

Mindy is trying to keep a database of patrons that can be contacted when the Friends have an event to ensure attendance.

Mindy and Ann met with Janet Bryan, Interim Bath County Administrator, about the library building. Working together, they plan to paint the inside and outside of the building, have the carpet cleaned, and update the lighting with LED bulbs. Ann added that Janet let the Friends contact painters for painting the Craven Room, Atrium, and staff area. Mindy added that Terry is working on a report of the outside of the building before any painting is completed.

Mindy would like to have a designer lay out the library to be more modern. They would like to add a mural at the library. Harper suggested having art students from the area come in and help. She agreed, but added having a professional lay out the design first.

Landscaping at the library needs to be addressed as there is some overgrowth. Terry asked about the Bradford Pears. Mindy said Janet is willing to help with requests, but a plan needs to be submitted first.

Mindy mentioned that they are trying to promote health and safety in Bath. They have worked with the local hospital to provide free training for CPR. The library could purchase an AED for $2,000.

Ann added having narcan and epipens available would be very helpful too. They are trying to figure out where to source that from.

Mindy announced the birthday party for Axel the axolotl on October 10. There will be trivia and a scavenger hunt. Pete added that Rachael Goetzke, Bath Branch Manager, would send a flyer to all the local schools.

The Friends of Bath Library participated in the Christmas Mother program, which provides gift baskets and aid to military families last year. They are considering participating again this year.

Questions regarding board packet

There were no questions. Pete said he was wowed by the things the libraries are doing. Harper added that there is a lot to be proud of and he thanked the leadership of the director and managers, and members of the Board who volunteer their time.

Discussion and announcements

- Request for reconsideration – committee recommendation to board
  - A visiting family to Bath filed a request for reconsideration for a graphic novel due to inappropriate topics. Harper, Janice, and Ann read the book and recommended that the board's decision should be to keep the book in the juvenile collection where it is currently shelved.
- Trespass order committee update
  - Harper scheduled a meeting with the person, Ann, and Janice to listen to his complaints and suggestions. The person did not attend the meeting. Board members than met with the staff members who were involved.
  - Steve asked if the trespass order would stand. Harper confirmed that the trespass order would stand.
  - A tort was hand delivered to Julie from the trespassed person. Julie stated that attorneys for the library said a response was not required.
- November 19 and December 17 board meeting dates
  - Julie asked the Board if they would like to meet on these days.

Action Items

- Vote on committee recommendation
  - Steve motioned to approve. Drusie seconded. All approved.
- Vote on November and December meeting dates
  - Bob motioned to approve. Pete seconded. All approved.

Steve made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Terry seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.

Adjournment: 5:09 PM **Next meeting**: October 22, 2026 at Goshen Library, 140 Main Street