

**James L. Hamner Public Library**  
**Board of Trustees Meeting**  
**Sept. 16, 2025**

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 by President Jennifer Harris. Members present were Carol Hix, Karen Freas, Joi Worsham, Callie Walker, Jody Hall, Gail Geraghty, Jennifer Harris, and Library Director Keith McFarlane. Also present were Board of Supervisors liaison Benjy Morris, and Friends of the Library liaison Wendy Audley.

**Minutes** - Jennifer called for questions about minutes from the July Meeting. There were none and Callie moved we accept, and Karen seconded. Motion carried.

**Public Comments** - None

**Friends of the Library** - Wendy Audley reported that membership was up to 122 members, with recent acquisition of four local businesses joining as lifetime members. A meeting was held last week, and dates were finalized for the holiday bookshop. They are continuing to work to reach out to the community.

Wendy, as chapter president of the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, reported that 190 preschoolers were now enrolled in the program. They are preparing for their event at the Amelia Elementary Trunk or Treat, and are also working on a fundraising tea on December 13th. They have a Facebook page now, and tickets can be purchased there. She shared some book baskets that will be raffled off this fall, as well. Jennifer said she is welcome to sell the baskets, as well as distribute flyers, at the library.

**Officers' Reports** - Evaluation - Tom will be heading the library director's evaluation this winter, and that process will begin within the next few months.

**Committee Reports** - None

**Library Director's Report** - Keith said that the library will have revised hours beginning in October, opening until 8:00 PM on both Tuesdays and Thursdays, and closing at 1:00 PM on Saturdays. Also, beginning next year, the library will reopen on Mondays. Keith reported that the library has been asked by the Amelia Historical Society to explore a partnership. He presented a vision plan for integration, with the library taking the lead. The goal is to create a unified, accessible, and sustainable hub for history, education, and community engagement, as both organizations share the common goal of education and community service. Jennifer added that this also would increase the library's available space for community activities. Keith proposes that a library staff

member become certified as a genealogist, and work at the historical society two days a week. He shared the long-term goals of this proposed merger, and said he plans to present this proposal at the Historical Society meeting to begin the process. Callie asked about management of the budget, and Joi asked if there may be available grants. Keith answered that there will be a series of exploratory meetings with a joint committee to address these concerns. Callie moved that we explore the possibility of aligning the library with the Amelia Historical Society, and Karen seconded. Motion carried. Keith is waiting to receive a form to complete the application for the Walmart grant, which could be used in a variety of ways. He said that he has procured a credit of \$3600 on the Kinex account. He also shared that the playground awning installation may be delayed. Jennifer added that Darryl is considering waiting upon the progress of the new pickleball and basketball courts behind the playground to choose matching awnings. The new county Parks and Rec field and parking lot proposal and map were discussed. Keith said that the youth are excited about the new sports facilities. Keith stated that he has installed new security cameras outside, with one being a recording camera. He will soon install indoor cameras. He also said that we'll be needing an alarm, as there currently is none. He reported that the Summer Reading Program was very successful, although the budget was a little limited. This year's total budget was \$7200, funded half by the Friends, and may need to be increased for next year. Wendy said that the Friends can look into greater funding. Keith said that he has been attending county department meetings to get to know the people and the local issues.

**Old Business** - Jennifer said that she has been in contact with Reagan Thalacker from the Library of Virginia to set up a training session for the board. After discussion, it was suggested that the date of Saturday, January 17th may work best. Jennifer will finalize and confirm with the board.

**New Business** - Keith said that he will be speaking at the Board of Supervisors meeting tomorrow night about the library's activities. Jennifer asked the board to please share any suggestions they may have about programming. She also told Joi and Callie to please consider asking board members for any help they may need with their community programs.

At 7:08, Gail moved that the meeting adjourn, and Callie seconded. Motion carried.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 18 at 6:00 PM.

