

**James L. Hamner Public Library
Board of Trustees Meeting
January 20, 2026**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. Members present were Jennifer Harris, Karen Freas, Carol Hix, Tom Hayghe, Ruth Ashton, Joi Worsham, Jody Hall, Callie Walker, Gail Geraghty, Library Director Keith McFarlane, Friends liaison Wendy Audley, and Board of Supervisors liaison Benjy Morris.

Jennifer asked for approval of the minutes from the last meeting in November. Callie moved, Ruth seconded, motion carried.

Public Comments - None.

Friends Report - Wendy said that using funding from the Wright account, they are working to reconfigure the young adult section and add computers. She also reported on what's going on at the Friends' building, including dates the bookshop will be closed for the year: March 10, May 12, July 14, September 8, and November 10. A turkey shoot is being planned to benefit the Imagination Library. Wendy said she is continuing to make fundraising baskets, as well.

Committees -

Evaluation Committee - Tom said that library director evaluation forms have been sent out and need to be returned by January 31. Discussion was made about the need to evaluate again in the spring, after completion of the director's first year. Tom clarified the evaluations would continue to be done at the end of the year to stay on schedule.

Budget Committee - There is no update yet from the county about this year's budget. A new library budget committee was formed of the following members: Carol, Ruth, and Tom.

Director's Report - Keith said he was still waiting to hear back from Walmart concerning the grant. Also, the ADA grant closes on Feb. 2, and he's waiting to hear from that as well. The Bibliostat survey has been submitted. Keith said he has been rearranging a few things. Juvenile courts has asked to use the meeting room one time weekly for at-risk youth. He said he attended the Ruritans and the Friends of the Library's meetings.

New Business - Budget Planning: Keith's priorities include a bookmobile with computers, which he says will reach more people. A Mercedes Sprinter van could be used for multiple purposes.

The 2026 holidays calendar was discussed and worked out. Karen made a motion we accept the calendar, and Carol seconded. Motion carried.

Jennifer said she wanted to finalize the board's meeting dates for 2026 and publish them at the county office for the year. Meetings will be held at 6:00 p.m. on March 17th, May 19th, July 21, September 15, and November 17th. Joi asked about how the board would manage a possible weather closing, and Jennifer said we could just reschedule the meeting at our convenience. No allowances are made for holding remote/electronic meetings.

Addressing Keith's wish to meet with the board more frequently, the board discussed the possibility of once again holding executive meetings monthly. It was decided against, but suggested to communicate by email as needed.

Keith said there is no update on the situation with the historical society.

Board Officers: Jennifer asked Carol if she felt that the position of corresponding secretary was still needed. Carol said that she has lately had little correspondence and discussion was made about combining the two secretary positions into one. Jennifer said that in March we will be voting on new board officers, and revising policy on the matter as well. Discussion of the terms of board members was held, including which members have a term expiring in June.

Library Policy: Jennifer said that it's time for us to reevaluate our current library policy, and asked for a committee to be formed. Karen, Callie, and Gail volunteered to serve as members.

Jennifer led the board to enter a closed session to discuss personnel matters for a specific employee pursuant to VA Code 2.2-3711.A.1.

The board returned from closed session. Pursuant to Virginia Code § 2.2-3712(D), Jennifer asked that we reconvene the open meeting. All members ascertained that only the previously identified personnel business was discussed. Ruth moved that we move back into open meeting and Carol seconded. No further business was discussed. The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

The next board meeting is scheduled for March 17th at 6:00 p.m.