

**James L. Hamner Public Library
Board of Trustees Meeting
March 17, 2026**

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 by acting president Joi Worsham. Members present were Karen Freas, Ruth Ashton, Carol Hix, Tom Hayghe, Jody Hall, Callie Walker, Joi Worsham, Benjy Morris, and Gail Geraghty. Also present was Friends of the Library liaison Wendy Audley.

Joi asked for approval of the agenda. Jody moved, Carol seconded, and motion carried.

Joi asked for approval of the minutes from the last meeting. Jody moved, and Carol seconded. Motion carried.

Public Comments - None

Friends of the Library - Wendy Audley reported that they are looking for a renter for the available office space in their building. She also shared names of the new officers that were recently elected: Linda Puckett as president, Linda Whittington as vice president, Karen Morris as Treasurer, Rosalyn Clark as recording secretary, and Diane Beasley as corresponding secretary. Wendy shared the Friends goals for \$6,500 for the summer reading program, and \$3,000 for other programs. The annual meeting will take place on Sunday, April 26th at 3:00 p.m. at the library. Guest speaker will be David Geraghty, who will present on Southside Virginia and the War for Independence. Wendy also talked about some building improvements, and providing books for children at the community Easter Egg Hunt, and for Amelia Baptist church's missions program.

Wendy said that the Dolly Parton Imagination Library now has 239 children enrolled, and fundraisers have been scheduled for March 22 and December 5. Three Easter baskets for raffle are now in place at the library.

Officer's Reports - none

Committee Reports -

Budget: Tom, Joi, and Benjy met with the county administrator concerning the budget on Thursday, March 19th, and they reported that the proposed 2027 budget is \$129,182 for non-personnel. As \$35,000 was not spent in 2024-2025, there will be a decrease in state funding for the upcoming year. Carol shared her concern that we spend the entire state funding in future. She said that the budget committee needs to

figure out how much of the 2026 funding can be coded to meet the requirements for the state funding. They will report at the next meeting. The committee has asked Benjy for an updated report from the county about library expenditures. Joi asked the committee to figure out how Orlon Jackson should be paid for security services. Also, the annual audit was sent to the Library of Virginia, and Carol said that, in addition, a Bibliostat form needs to be signed by Joi in the presence of a notary.

Policy - Karen said that the policy committee (Karen, Callie, Gail) needs to meet soon to fill in some gaps, especially regarding what we can work on without a director. The board requested that the committee reports on the current state of the library policy. Joi recommended we look at what the surrounding libraries have in place.

Meeting with Attorney - The attorney has postponed, but said that he will respond to our questions at a later date. Benjy said we should try to include legal fees for the library in the 2027 budget.

Board President Report - Joi thanked everyone for stepping in and helping out with recent responsibilities.

Old Business - Tom spoke about technical assets and said that he's been working on installing Microsoft Suite. He will also speak with Makayla about device ID. He would like the board's permission to return the desktop tower to library staff, after management of some files. Karen moved that we do, Ruth seconded, motion carried. Tom suggested that an old laptop, which has been used by three library directors with three different passwords should be wiped, or disposed of, as it may contain sensitive info which is currently inaccessible. He will look into this further. Tom also said that we should look into computer password practices. Also, the camera password has been changed. Tom is considering setting an autoplay form response to the library director's email for the time being. He'll send a draft to Joi.

Tom said that the \$10,000 ALA Grant was awarded to us this week, right at the deadline, and will go toward furniture for the disabled.

New Business -

Election of Officers: after some discussion, the following positions were filled: Joi Worsham as president, Tom Hayghe as vice president, Carol Hix as corresponding secretary, and Gail Geraghty as recording secretary. Karen moved we accept this new roster, and Ruth seconded, motion carried. Also, Joi agreed to become the point of contact for the Library of Virginia. Benjy said that Joi has done an amazing job in her recent position as acting chair, and asked that she delegate responsibilities to other board members to lighten her load.

Banking question: Benjy contacted Stephanie, who joined us by phone, concerning improper staff deposits in a library account at Citizen's Bank, which should be done only by the county. Benjy and Jody both said that the deposit procedure needed to be changed. Stephanie suggested that we discontinue accepting debit or credit cards to pay for Friends' used book sales, and to only accept cash or checks in future. Stephanie said that staff needs to record all deposits on a form weekly, and take it directly to her office. Stephanie also clarified that the money in the library cash box is completely unrelated. She then asked for a policy to be put in writing and filed with her as soon as possible.

At 7:48, Jody made a motion that the board move to closed session, pursuant to Virginia Code §2.2-3711(A)(1) and Gail seconded. Motion carried.

At 9:24, Gail moved that we return to open session, pursuant to Virginia Code §2.2-3711(A)(1), Ruth seconded, and all members present certified that only personnel matters were discussed.

The board discussed managing vendor contact information, and agreed to give permission to Micayla to take over this responsibility.

Gail moved that the board move forward with reaching out to two interim director candidates to fill the vacancy. Tom, Benjy, and Joi agreed to make the arrangements. Tom seconded, and motion carried.

Jody moved we adjourn, and Karen seconded, motion carried. Our next scheduled meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 24th at 6:00 p.m. at the library.