

Stewart County Library Board Meeting Minutes
February 12, 2026 – 2:00 pm
Parks Memorial Public Library

In attendance:

Anna Laura Barrett – Chair
Bobbi Boynton – Vice Chair
Carmen Coy – Treasurer

Jennifer Boling
Martha McCoy

Also: Alan Harkness, Director, CVL

Katie Burnett, Assist. Director for Public Services, CVL

Charelle Davis, Parks Branch Manager, CVL

Lizette Cruz, Administrative Assistant, CVL

- I. Call to order: Due to the initial absence of Chair Barrett, Vice Chair Boynton called the meeting to order at 2:03 PM
- II. **Approval of the Meeting Minutes for November 13, 2026.**
Vice Chair Boynton asked the board to review the minutes from the November 13, 2025, meeting. Coy made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, and McCoy seconded the motion. The vote in favor was unanimous by Boynton, Boling, Coy, and McCoy.
- III. Public Comment: There were no public comments.
- IV. Treasurer's Report
Branch Manager Charelle Davis presented the treasurer's report. She went over all of the revenue and expenses as stated in the report. The ending balance in the bank account on December 31st was \$31,445.93.
- V. Local Report
Branch Manager Charelle Davis presented the local library report. PMPL has applied for an ALA: LTC grant for \$20,000. They should receive an answer sometime in March. PMPL has received \$1,500 grant from Sumter EMC. PMPL had two CTAE student volunteers from the local high school for six weeks. A new part-time Library Assistant has been hired. They start next week. PMPL had a turkey dinner giveaway and two winners were drawn.

Recent programs at PMPL included Visit with Santa, Sand in a bottle children's activity, Teen bracelet building activity, Plant a Pencil and Thanksgiving Bingo for the adults. Chair Yoga returned for 2026 and is averaging three to five participants. The adult book club had three participants. PMPL had vision board party at the local middle school and a puppet show for the children at the library. The library is partnering with the GA Dept. of Health to throw a Community Baby Shower.

Manager Davis is making inroads in the community establishing connections. She will be meeting with Freddie Powell Sims and Gerald Greene. She has reached out to Gas & Go, Sumter EMC and Five Star Bank. Five Star Bank will be a sponsor at the Columbus Children's Book Festival in 2026. She is also working on establishing classroom and library partnerships

along with corporate sponsorships. The Mayor will have the vehicles that the city has parked at the back of the property moved before Easter.

VI. Director's Report

He invited every board member to attend the events scheduled for the library system wide program *Food & the Soul of America*, that will be running from January until April 2026. He also invited them to attend the Columbus Children's Book Festival in May.

Director Harkness wanted to make the library board aware of Georgia Senate Bill 74. It has come out of committee and could be coming to vote. Barnett encouraged board members to call their GA congress representatives and senators.

Chair Barrett requested an estimate on what the expenses for a renovation for Parks Memorial Public Library would be. Director Harkness had an architect come in and draw up estimates on what amounts would be feasible. He handed each board member a copy of the estimates and went over each one in detail. He also answered several clarifying questions.

VII. Unfinished Business

There was none.

VIII. New Business

A. Vote to spend \$300 of local funds on Books, Bunnies & Basket Eater Program.

Boyton made a motion to approve the expenditure of \$300 for the BB&B Program. Coy seconded the motion. The vote in favor was unanimous by Barrett, Boynton, Boling, Coy, and McCoy.

B. Vote to add Chair Anna Laura Barrett

Boyton made a motion to add Chair Anna Laura Barrett to the bank account. McCoy seconded the motion. The vote in favor was unanimous by Barrett, Boynton, Boling, Coy, and McCoy.

C. Coy made a motion to add agenda item: Discuss, choose and approve option presented by Director Harkness in his report on the renovations of the Parks Memorial Public Library. Barrett, Boynton, Boling, Coy, and McCoy approved the motion unanimously.

D. Discuss, choose and approve an option presented by Director Harkness in his report on the renovations of the Parks Memorial Public Library.

After much discussion McCoy made a motion to approve the option as follows:

Raise the required match of \$250,000 in local funds for a state grant match amount of \$1,050,000. Boling seconded the motion. The vote in favor was unanimous by Barrett, Boynton, Boling, Coy, and McCoy.

E. Coy made a motion to add item: Approve the expenditure of the \$1,500 grant from Sumter EMC for the Books, Bunnies & Basket Eater Program in addition to the already approved amount of \$300. Barrett, Boynton, Boling, Coy, and McCoy approved the motion unanimously.

F. Approve the expenditure of the \$1,500 grant from Sumter EMC for the Books, Bunnies & Basket Eater Program in addition to the already approved amount of \$300.

Coy made a motion to approve the expenditure of \$1,500 for the BB&B Program. McCoy seconded the motion. The vote in favor was unanimous by Barrett, Boynton, Boling, Coy, and McCoy.

- IX. The next meeting will be May 14, 2026.
- X. The meeting was adjourned at 2:56 PM.

DRAFT