

Stewart County Library Board Meeting Minutes
November 13, 2025 – 2:00 pm
Parks Memorial Public Library

In attendance:

Bobbi Boynton – Vice Chair
Crystal Townsend – Secretary
Carmen Coy – Treasurer

Anna Laura Barrett
Jennifer Boling
Martha McCoy
Gussie Thomas

Also: Alan Harkness, Director, CVL
Katie Burnett, Assist. Director for Public Services, CVL
Charelle Davis, Parks Branch Manager, CVL

- I. Call to order: Vice Chair Boynton called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM
- II. Vice Chair Boynton asked the board to review the minutes from the August 14, 2025, meeting and the meeting called for September 16, 2025. Coy made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, and McCoy seconded the motion. The vote in favor was unanimous by Boynton, Barrett, Boling, Coy, McCoy, Thomas and Townsend.
- III. Public Comment: There were no public comments.
- IV. Treasurer's Report
Branch Manager Charelle Davis presented the treasurer's report. The ending balance in the bank account on September 30th was \$26,562.99.08. The only expenditure to come out of the FY26 budget thus far has been custodial in the amount of \$249.62.
- V. Director's Report
Director Alan Harkness presented the director's report. Tonight, the Muscogee County Library Foundation will be having their annual fundraiser, Cocktails & Comedy, with comedian Karen Morgan. They assist all the libraries with financial support.

Director Harkness has taken the Parks Memorial Public Library off the state list. Stewart County does not have the matching funds needed for the program on hand. He is hoping to add PMPL back to the list for FY28. Prior to doing so, conversation needs to happen about strategies to raise the \$100,000.00 matching funds needed.

Director Harkness will be holding the system wide Library Board Training again on January 31, 2026, from 9 AM until noon. The venue is yet to be determined. A Continental breakfast will be provided. Director Harkness asked any board member that wishes to attend to reach out to Lizette if they haven't already.

Branch Manager Bailey Carter for the Marion County Public Library secured a grant of over \$20,000 from the American Library Association to upgrade parking lot lights and make some ADA updates to the Marion Public Library.

- VI. Local Library Report

Manager Davis presented the local library report. Manager Davis is applying for an American Libraries Association grant due in December. She has been working on increasing the Parks Memorial Public Library presence in the community and on social media. She has been posting flyers in the local Piggie Wiggle and in Dollar General on library events as well as ads in the newspaper. She has also been concentrating on establishing relationships with the mayor, city council, the superintendent and principal of the local school district, and Richland Run.

A recent crafting with food event drew 9 attendees. Manager Davis is working on growing the monthly book Club. Manager Davis has done outreach with the local middle school, and several after school programs. PMPL is collaborating with Columbus Tech, who is offering a GED program in Richland. So far, two people have registered. PMPL has also been collaborating with the Dept. of Public Health and Community Head Start. Manager Davis has been going to the Pre-K at Head Start weekly and to the high school monthly. She has also visited the Senior Center in Lumpkin. She is working on expanding outreach.

PMPL has a new employee, Sade Mitchell from Lumpkin, as well as a work study student who has been shelving and doing some cleaning. Manager Davis is working on bringing in some more volunteers to work in the PMPL.

- VII. Unfinished Business
There was none.

VIII. New Business

A. Approve the fax line move.

After some discussion Barrett made a motion to approve the fax line move.

Townsend seconded the motion. The vote in favor was unanimous by Boynton, Barrett, Boling, Coy, McCoy, Thomas and Townsend.

B. Vote to remove Nea Permenter from the bank account

McCoy made a motion to remove Nea Permenter from the bank account. Coy seconded the motion. The vote in favor was unanimous by Boynton, Barrett, Boling, Coy, McCoy, Thomas and Townsend.

C. Appoint and approve a new Board Chair. McCoy made a motion to nominate and approve Anna Laura Barrett as the new Board Chair. Thomas seconded the motion. The vote in favor was unanimous by Boynton, Barrett, Boling, Coy, McCoy, Thomas and Townsend.

D. Chair appointment to the CVL Regional Board

Chair Barret appointed Jennifer Boling to serve on the CVL Regional Board representing the Stewart County Library Board.

- IX. The next meeting will be February 12, 2026

- X. The meeting was adjourned at 2:32 PM.