Minutes

Oconee County Public Library Board of Trustees meeting
Tuesday, September 22, 2026, 5:30 p.m.
Council Chambers, County Administration Bldg., 415 S. Pine St., Walhalla, SC

Members present: J. Adams, M. Ellison, P. Holcombe, K. Jackson, K. Knapp, N. McKinney, V. Smith.
Members absent: C. Powell, T. Weekes
Staff: Blair Hinson, Library Director, staff liaison
Press: none.

I. **Call to Order** – meeting called to order at 5:30 PM
II. **Invocation** – K. Jackson
III. **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America** – K. Knapp

IV. **Approval of minutes** – July 28, 2026 regular meeting – K. Knapp wanted several amendments made to the minutes to reflect comments made during the discussion of State Aid and Personnel from the July meeting. K. Knapp then motioned to accept minutes, seconded by K. Jackson. Motion passed 7-0.

V. **Public Comment** - Limited to 4 minutes per person, 30 minutes in total – one speaker, Liz Kuemmerer. She addressed the Board about the Library Resource Associate position. (Comments in back-up)

VI. **Board member comments** – J. Adams pointed out that motion to use State Aid was tabled in July, 2026. She also noted that County Council passed the third reading of Ordinance 2026-27, making the position void as it was not approved by them. K. Jackson mentioned that the Community Relations Committee took up the subject to do research after the motion was tabled in July. There were 41 people in attendance at the committee meeting. K. Jackson stated that the committee would have recommended to continue to use State Aid to support the position, but that was rendered moot by the action of County Council. K. Jackson also addressed K. Knapp's earlier question of "is the Library Resource position's work library work?" She mentioned that, while she didn't always see it that way, that the committee research led her to believe that it was, and that it saved the county money.
VII. **Friends' Report** – Director reported the sales figures for July and August, 2026 (in back-up). Director mentioned the Saturday sale in September, the success of Books on the Alley, and that the Friends will support both Adult Winter Reading and the Touch a Truck event on October 31.

VIII. **Committee Reports** (if submitted)

A. Finance – none.

B. Policy/Personnel – none.

C. Building and Grounds – K. Knapp deferred comments to Old Business.

D. Community Relations: meeting on August 11, 2026 (minutes in backup) – K. Jackson mentioned the Public Relations Committee meeting, and discussion endued about State Aid and also the circulation assistant positions.

IX. **Chair's Report** – none.

X. **Director's Report** – Director mentioned that he had asked the staff to keep track of "missed opportunities" in regards to questions which would have been directed to the Library Resource Associate.

XI. **Old Business**

~~A. Discuss State Aid and personnel~~

B. Update building and grounds projects – K. Knapp mentioned that the access ramp at the Seneca Branch is not ADA-compliant. The Director has had limited success in getting approval for a parking area adjacent to the main front doors. K. Knapp sloke with County Administrator Stewart Jones, and that Roads and Bridges is working on a "mock-up" of the parking area. Discussion ensued that the "final drawings never got approved," and would need to be approved by County Council. K. Knapp also mentioned pressure washing at the Seneca Branch, and also the HVAC in the staff work area. P. Holcombe also asked to have the drawing for the Library Board by the next Library Board meeting.

XII. **New Business**

A. Discuss County Ordinance 2026-31 – Director made the Board aware of a proposed ordinance of County Council to require Board and Commission members to take an oath to the Constitution of the United States. Discussion ensued about a similar ordinance at the state level, how it would be implemented and how records would be kept.

B. Discussion of director objectives for 2027 – P. Holcombe pointed out that the Board had not evaluated the Library Director and needed to plan to do that in the first quarter of calendar year 2027.

XIII. **Executive Session**

[upon reconvening the Board may take a Vote and/or take Action on matters brought up for discussion in Executive Session, if required]

For the following purposes, as allowed for in § 30-4-70(a) (1) of the South Carolina Code of Laws: to discuss a legal matter involving the library.

Motion made by K. Jackson, seconded by N. McKinney to enter Executive Session. Board entered Executive Session at 6:00 PM. Motion by K. Jackson to emerge from Executive Session, seconded by J. Adams. Board reconvened at 6:15 PM. No actions or votes were taken in Executive Session. P. Holcombe also commented that the earlier mention of the need to evaluate the Library Director was not to indicate that there was any deficiency on the part of the Director.

XIV. **Adjourn** – K. Knapp motioned for adjournment, seconded by K. Jackson. Meeting adjourned at 6:18 PM.