Sherman Public Library Board
Regular Meeting
Board of Trustees
July 15, 2026

The regular monthly meeting of the Sherman Public Library Board was called to order at 5:00 p.m. Present were Library Director Rachel Kocis and Board members John Barrett, Vrunda Jain, Mike Lang, Brian Manci, Elizabeth Hearring and Julie Horton. Absent was Courtney Westlake.

Secretary's Report: It was moved by Julie Horton and seconded by Elizabeth Hearring to approve the minutes from the June 2026 regular meeting. The motion was approved.

Treasurer's/Financial Report: Mike Lang made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Reports for June. Vrunda Jain seconded, and the motion carried by a unanimous voice vote. Director Kocis will present a financial review for FY 2026 at the August meeting.

Librarian's Report: Director Kocis presented her Librarian's Report to the Board.

Circulation June 2026
2,894 patron count
3,265 physical items circulated 4,008 times at our Library
Resident borrowing: 317 patron cards 2,986 checkouts
Non Resident Borrowing: 69 cards, 736 checkouts
Reciprocal borrowing: 21 cards, 285 checkouts
Cloud Library: 55 e-books, 34 Cloud Library e-audiobooks
Overdrive Lending: 278 e-book checkouts, 246 e-audiobook checkouts
Borrowing/Lending June 2026
SHARE Borrowed: 362
SHARE Loaned: 437
WorldShare Borrowed: 5
WorldShare Loaned: 4

New Business:

-The Board of Trustees conducted the election of officers. All officers will remain in their current positions: Brian Manci as President, Mike Lang as Vice President, Courtney Westlake as Secretary and FOIA Officer, and John Barrett as Treasurer. Julie Horton made a motion to approve the slate of officers, Liz Hearring seconded the motion, and it carried by unanimous voice vote.

-Director Kocis presented the Board with an updated FOIA policy to reflect the current officers. Brian Manci made a motion to approve the updated policy, Vrunda Jain seconded the motion, and it carried by unanimous voice vote.

-The Board discussed four FOIA requests in June and one in July:

1. **June 18, 2026 @ 12:06 pm – Personal Request (Jacob Pahde):**
   Requested ethics ordinance, personnel policy, and director evaluation rubric.
   Responded same day.
2. **June 25, 2026 – Commercial Request (Data Branch):**
   Requested vendor records. Responded June 26, 2026.

3. **June 24, 2026 @ 1:28 pm – Personal Request (Jacob Pahde):**
   Requested email communications involving Sherman Public Library District staff and Taylorville Public Library District representatives regarding former director Lorachelle Purdy.
   - Required staff-wide email review and a 5-day extension (issued July 1, 2026).
   - A total of 170 pages were compiled and provided on July 7, 2026.
4. **June 30, 2026 – Commercial Request (Data Branch):**
   Requested vendor records. Responded July 8, 2026.
5. **July 10, 2026 @ 4:00 p.m. – Personal Request (Janet McAllister):**
   Requested communications between Sherman Public Library District staff and Americans for Prosperity–Deputy State Director Brian Costin and emails related to ethics and Rochester Public Library District.
   - No responsive records for the first portion.
   - Two responsive emails identified for the second portion. One from Jacob Pahde dated 7/10/2026 and the second dated 1/22/2022 from Rochester Public Library District director Janet McAllister to the directors listserv about the State officials and Employees Ethics Act. Responded July 15, 2026.

- Director Kocis shared an email received at the library's general email address from Jacob Pahde at 3:50 p.m. on Friday, July 10, 2026. The Board directed Director Kocis to consult with the library's attorney to determine whether this email, in conjunction with a pattern of FOIA requests may constitute harassment, should she feel such consultation is necessary.

-The Board approved the FY27 Holiday Closures. Julie Horton made a motion to approve, John Barrett seconded the motion, and it carried by unanimous voice vote.

- The Board discussed progress on the library's website. The upgrade to a new ADA-compliant website is expected to be completed by the fall.

-Director Kocis reported on a phone conversation with the library's attorney regarding the bidding process for a new roof. The attorney recommended working with an engineer or architect.

Closed Session: No Closed Session

Adjournment: Brian Manci made a motion to adjourn at 5:31 p.m. and Julie Horton seconded.

Next Meeting: Budget and Appropriation Hearing August 19 at 5:00 p.m. followed by the regularly scheduled board meeting.