SEPTEMBER 9, 2026 **REGULAR MEETING** MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF ECKHART PUBLIC LIBRARY (EPL).

The Board of Trustees of the Eckhart Public Library met on September 9, 2026 at 6:15pm at the William H. Willennar Genealogy Center, 700 South Jackson Street, Auburn, IN. The media and public received proper notice, pursuant to I.C. § 5-14-1.5-5.

President Barbara Morrow presided and called the meeting to order at 6:15pm.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Members of the Board of Trustees present by roll call were: David Brown, Connie Fullerton, Pete Kempf, Barbara Morrow, Amy Norton, William Schaab. Absent: Nora Schwartz.

Also present: Executive Director Valerie Simmons, Business & Finance Manager Martha Rubrake, and Technical Services & Finance Specialist Rebecca Mann.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

None

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Board Member Norton moved to approve the minutes from the August 12, 2026 meeting. Vice President Brown provided the second.

The motion to approve the minutes as presented carried 5 to 0 by roll call vote of the Board: Brown-aye; Fullerton-aye; Kempf-aye; Norton-aye; Schaab-aye.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Treasurer Schaab moved to approve the financial reports as presented. Board Member Norton provided the second.

The motion to approve the financial reports as presented carried 5 to 0 by roll call vote of the Board: Brown-aye; Fullerton-aye; Kempf-aye; Norton-aye; Schaab-aye.

VOUCHERS AUTHORIZATION

Presented vouchers from August 13, 2026 through September 9, 2026 in the amount of $224,952.65.

Secretary Fullerton moved to authorize the vouchers as presented. Board Member Kempf provided the second.

The motion to approve the vouchers as presented carried 5 to 0 by roll call vote of the Board: Brown-aye; Fullerton-aye; Kempf-aye; Norton-aye; Schaab-aye.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Simmons has been accepted into the 3rd cohort of Transforming Communities. This program runs through 2027 and culminates in a Certified Fund Raising Manager (CFRM) certification through The Fundraising School at the Lilly Family School of Philanthropy.

Public Services Manager Darcy Armstrong has been nominated and is one of three finalists for the Fortify Life Community Cultivator Award. According to the nomination form, *the award recognizes an individual who embodies Fortify Life's mission by strengthening our community and helping others flourish through innovative solutions and initiatives that create positive change.* The winner of the award will be announced at their Auburn-Opoly Gala on September 19th, 2026.

Director Simmons attended the DeKalb County Municipal Unit Strategic Taskforce (MUST) meeting with the other DeKalb public library directors on Tuesday, September 8 at 12:00 PM. Information about how local income taxes can be allocated under the new legislation was explained. This was the first conversation with the overarching goal of transparency and understanding. Simmons will attend the next meeting, scheduled for October 7 at 1:00 PM.

Personnel:

An EPL employee was granted a four week leave of absence.

An offer of part time employment as a Public Services Specialist has been made and accepted by Trent Roberts. His start date is yet to be determined.

Gifts and Grants:

None

COMMUNICATIONS and CORRESPONDENCE

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

PHP Renewal Proposal received for the period 12/1/26 - 11/30/27. Director Simmons and Business Operations & Finance Manager Rubrake reviewed the policy and recommended that the library continue with the proposed renewal plans and current employer contributions. The renewal increases are slightly higher than expected but in line with our 2027 budget estimates.

Treasurer Schaab moved to authorize the PHP Renewal Proposal and employer contributions as presented. Board Member Kempf provided the second.

The motion to approve the PHP Renewal Proposal and employer contributions as presented carried 5 to 0 by roll call vote of the Board: Brown-aye; Fullerton-aye; Kempf-aye; Norton-aye; Schaab-aye.

Director Simmons presented a draft update to the Mobile Outreach (EMOS home delivery) Policy to include revised contact information and safety parameters for staff.

Secretary Fullerton moved to authorize the Mobile Outreach Policy as presented. Vice President Brown provided the second.

The motion to approve the Mobile Outreach Policy as presented carried 5 to 0 by roll call vote of the Board: Brown-aye; Fullerton-aye; Kempf-aye; Norton-aye; Schaab-aye.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Martha reported about the Staff Association Health Challenge (SASS).

Staff Day is Thursday, October 1, 2026. Board Members will provide breakfast for 26 staff. Training begins at 10am.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on October 14, 2026 at 6:00pm at the Willennar Genealogy Center, 700 S. Jackson Street, Auburn, IN.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board of Trustees, **Treasurer Schaab moved to adjourn the meeting**. Board Member Norton provided the second.

The motion to adjourn carried 5 to 0 by roll call vote of the Board: Brown-aye; Fullerton-aye; Kempf-aye; Norton-aye; Schaab-aye.

Approved by the EPL Board of Trustees

Barbara O. Morrow

Barbara O. Morrow, President

ATTEST: Connie Fullerton

Connie Fullerton, Secretary