

**Whitman County Library**  
**Board of Trustees Meeting**

Public Meeting at the Colfax Branch of the Whitman County Library

October 21, 2025

**Present:** Blaine Golden, Heather Lusting, Cindy Alred, Ronda Penwell, Sue Kreikemeier, Steve Greene, Catalina Flores and Christy Hughes.

Chairperson Alred called the meeting to order at 4:03 pm.

**Approval of Consent Agenda**

Minutes of the September meeting and Resolutions 25-23, 25-24 and 25-25, Accounts Payable, Payroll and Budget Revision were approved by a vote of the Board.

**Reports**

September financial documents were presented to the board and a brief explanation about them was given. Steve presented a revised collection budget informed by research and benchmarking against libraries of comparable size. Director Kreikemeier moved to approve the revised collection budget. Director Golden seconded the motion, and all voted in favor of the budget revision.

The Board and Steve discussed reviewing the 2026 budget at the next meeting, scheduled for Tuesday, November 18, 2025. Steve will prepare the necessary materials for this important discussion.

The Director reported on library and director activities. Print materials has seen a 25% growth in circulation in the last year. Four branches have received Pilcrow grants for children's hardcover books: Albion, Colfax, Malden and Rosalia. Ackerman Nolan has received the parts necessary to complete the HVAC upgrades. They will begin this process next week. James has saved Whitman County Library tens of thousands of dollars by cloning drives and purchasing computers second-hand from WSU. The Avista NCIF grants for Tekoa and Oakesdale have been approved. These require no matching funds and amount to a total of \$47,000. Both cities are very appreciative. The director has brought in and hosted new programs including D&D, Read to a Dog, Pajama Storytime, Saturday Storytime and Chess Club.

Shannon Slaughter – former Albion Branch Manager – has filled a vacant Colfax substitute position and is hosting Saturday Storytime twice a month.

Cydney planned, decorated and hosted a fantastic Spooktacular event. It received high praise.

The Branch Operations Manager presented branch updates including that branch manager Nanci Selk has returned from medical leave, and Rose Anderson will likely return in November. Branch Manager Andrea Mills has facilitated an ongoing email conversation between branch managers. It is going very well.

Branch Manager Sidney Harch is hosting a Turkey Trot fundraiser to raise funds for youth programming in Tekoa. Other branch managers are also considering seasonal fundraising opportunities.

The Branch Operations Manager presented library usage and statistics. Youth statistics were down significantly at the Palouse Empire Fair, but adult statistics increased by 125%. This was largely due to the new location the library occupied in the Community Center. A Whitman Digital Heritage slideshow and displays were highly successful during the Fair, but we had fewer contact opportunities with youth.

**Continuing Business**

Director Golden reported that he and his sons have been filling potholes and will need additional materials to finish and seal them. The Friends' successful fundraising efforts will provide the funds needed to purchase the remaining supplies.

The Board discussed adding one paid personal day off as a benefit for part-time staff. Director Kreikemeier motioned for its approval and Chairperson Alfred seconded, and all voted in favor of the paid personal time off.

**New Business**

The Director shared branch and facility operations updates about Endicott, Oakesdale and Tekoa.

The Board asked about discussing increased wages for branch managers, but decided to postpone the discussion until they have looked over next year's budget. Minimum wage is increasing to \$17.13 on January 1, 2026. The average branch manager currently earns \$17.20 an hour. Steve will prepare the 2026 budget with branch manager wage options in mind, and the Board will discuss in November's budget meeting.

**Executive Session**

The Board went into an Executive Session at 5:02 PM to discuss a personnel issue.

**Adjourn**

They came back to the regular meeting at 5:43 PM, and the meeting was adjourned at 5:44 PM by Chairperson Alfred.

**Next Meeting**

The next regular meeting will be Tuesday, November 18, at 4:00 PM at the Collax branch of the Whitman County Library.

  
Steve Greene, Finance Manager

  
Cindy Alfred, Chair