

## **Whitman County Library**

### **Board of Trustees Meeting**

Public Meeting at the Colfax Branch of the Whitman County Library

April 21, 2026

**Present:** Heather Lustig, Blaine Golden, Cindy Alred, Sue Kreikemeier, Colin Haffner, Steve Greene, Catalina Flores, Cydney Selk, Hollyanna Hahn, Nanci Selk, Christy Hughes, Debbie Wolfe, Destiny Corean and Rodney McCall.

Chairperson Lustig called the meeting to order at 3:57 pm.

#### **Approval of Consent Agenda**

Minutes of the March meeting and Resolutions 26-13 and 26-14 were approved by a vote of the Board.

#### **Reports**

The Director reported on library and director activities. She highlighted several recent developments, including the reinstatement of the Whitman Digital Heritage Grant and the announcement of the ALA Grant, which will fund accessible doors at several branches and support ongoing conversations about accessibility in library facilities. The Director also shared that full-time staff are actively reviewing the collected survey data as they work to finalize the library's updated mission and vision statements.

March financial documents were presented to the board and a brief explanation about them was given. Robert Osborne Memorial funds were used purchase DVD players for each branch to keep and circulate to their communities. Cash balances should increase soon as people begin paying their spring property taxes.

The Branch Operations Manager presented branch updates and showcased many of the programs that branches are hosting during the months of April and May, including a film screening and an author visit. The Branch Operations Manager also shared library usage and statistics. Traditional circulation numbers continue to increase, database usage also increased, programs attendance did see a decrease which is somewhat predictable given the time of year. Social media engagement and card catalog usage continues to increase.

#### **Continuing Business**

The Board discussed potential updates to the policy regarding service-based Personal Day accrual rates. Currently, full-time staff receive one additional Personal Day after 5 years of service and another after 10 years, with no additional increases beyond that point. The Board will continue reviewing the policy and plans to vote on the proposed updates at the next meeting.

The Executive Director will send out a finalized draft of the strategic plan for Board review prior to the May meeting, allowing time for discussion at the next Board meeting. The goal is to finalize the strategic plan at the June 16 meeting and then launch it to all staff afterward.

#### **New Business**

Endicott Town Council Representatives, Debbie Wolfe and Destiny Corean, addressed the Board and thanked them for giving them time on the agenda. Representative Wolfe read a statement she and

Representative Corean had prepared ahead of time that outlined their concerns about recent events and rumors regarding the Endicott Library. They stated that they love their library and that there has been no discussion about closing the library. They shared that during the COVID pandemic, the Town Council faced some pressure to sever ties with Whitman County Library and transition to a lending library model. However, the Council was opposed to the idea, even at a time when it was still uncertain whether the library would ever be able to fully reopen. Town Council has discussed the option of returning City Hall to the Library building – which belongs to the Town – which is where City Hall originally was. They reiterated, that moving the City Hall does not mean closing the library.

They also expressed two concerns and emphasized their desire to resolve them in a peaceful manner. The first issue they addressed was the “suspected” gas leak at the library. They stated that proper protocol in the event of a gas odor is to evacuate the building immediately and call 911, and they believed these procedures were not followed in this instance. After Avista visited the library and confirmed that the building was safe to reenter, Mayor Marty stopped by the library and acknowledged having said some “frustrated words” with the librarian. He apologized to Christy the following day, admitting that his behavior was not professional and not in keeping with his personality.

They thought the situation was resolved but then Director, Christy Hughes, came to the Endicott Town Council meeting, and read a letter that they felt publicly humiliated and chastised Mayor Marty in front of a gallery of town residents. Representative Wolfe urged Whitman County Library to do an in-service on how to respond to potential disasters in a library situation.

The second issue they addressed had to do with janitorial cleaning of the library which they feel has become a large, contentious issue. In the past, the town paid the librarian minimum-wage to clean the library, and they did not know that the current librarian would “refuse” to do this cleaning when she was hired and leave it all up to the city and the mayor. This is when the cleaning became an issue. Because the library does programs after-hours it means extra mess, and this requires extra cleaning.

Branch Manager Nanci Selk responded to some of the Representative’s concerns, explaining that paintings and other materials are sometimes left out to dry and cannot always be cleaned up immediately. She also shared that she often comes into the library during off-hours to tidy up, but is unaware of the mayor’s cleaning schedule and therefore does not know how best to coordinate around it. She noted that he has never directly communicated his schedule or concerns to her. She also shared that, for personal reasons, she is unable to perform the larger janitorial cleaning duties at the library, and emphasized that this is not a matter of unwillingness. She does, however, sweep up, vacuum, tidy and clean up after library events.

Branch Operations Manager Catalina Flores also clarified that responsibility for cleaning library facilities rests with each individual branch, and that this practice is standard across the library system, not unique to Endicott. She stated that expecting branch managers to take on additional cleaning responsibilities is unreasonable and inconsistent with the Memorandum of Understanding between the library and the town.

Representative Wolfe admitted that she was unaware of this understanding and appreciated the clarification of roles. Representative Corean said that she would appreciate if Branch Manager Nanci Selk would bring a calendar of events to City Hall each month so that they would know about the events taking place in the library. The Branch Manager agreed to reinstate this practice now that City Hall has reopened. Everyone agreed that more and better communication is needed between all parties. Representative Wolfe said that she would like us all to sit down together and work towards a resolution.

Director Hughes shared that she has reached out to Mayor Marty numerous times in an effort to open a dialogue regarding the contract, cleaning concerns, and maintaining general goodwill between the town and the library. While acknowledging that the mayor has a busy schedule, she noted that her communications have often gone unanswered. She added that her most recent attempts to arrange a meeting to discuss the contract have also not received a response despite several follow-up efforts. Representative Wolfe said that she would reach out to the mayor to coordinate a time to meet with the library. Director Hughes added that, the library will continue reaching out, and expressed a desire to work together to serve the town of Endicott.

Director Golden asked about the contract renewal timeline. The contract between WCL and the City of Endicott needs to be renewed by the end of October 2026. Director Golden recommended that the contract includes a Memorandum of Understanding that dictates a procedural understanding of what the town would like the library to do in case of a building emergency.

Director Alred requested that we schedule the meeting between the parties sooner rather than later. Everyone agreed that these miscommunications could be improved through open communication and by coming together to sit down and discuss the concerns collaboratively.

#### **Executive Session**

The Board went into an executive session at 4:54 PM to consider information regarding staff privileges.

#### **Adjourn**

The Board came back to the regular meeting at 5:03 PM, and discussed an amendment to Hollyanna Hahn's employment contract for the period of June 29, 2026 – August 6, 2026.

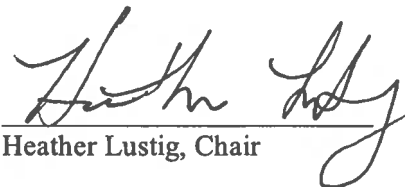
The meeting was adjourned at 5:09 PM by Chairperson Lustig.

#### **Next Meeting**

The next regular meeting will be Tuesday, May 19, 2026 at 4:00 PM at the **Colfax** branch of the Whitman County Library.



Steve Greene, Finance Manager



Heather Lustig, Chair