

WHITE CLOUD COMMUNITY LIBRARY
BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING
August 20, 2026
MINUTES

Call to Order

The White Cloud Community Library Board of Director's Meeting held on the above date was called to order at 1:05 PM

1. Roll Call

Board Members Present: Judy Maike, Kathy Broome, Pat Ebenstein, Nicole Heil, Keri Collins, Sue Redding, Linda Trapp,

Board Members Absent: Pam Chaffee

Also Present: Amy Stockwell, Director; Ronald Phillips; Assistant Director

2. Agenda: Approval of agenda for the board meeting held on August 20, 2026 as presented.

Motion: Kathy Broome Seconded: Pat Ebenstein

Vote: Yes- All Absent: Pamela Chaffee

Minutes: Approval of minutes for the meeting held on July 16, 2026 as written

Motion: Sue Redding Seconded: Kathy Broome

Vote: Yes- All Absent: Pamela Chaffee

Pamela Chaffee Arrives at 1:07 PM

FINANCIAL REPORT: The Goodwill Project line for \$10,000 is for sensory equipment that is now out by the pavilion. It was set up the day before the Summer Reading Program wrap up party. The FAF will be doing a ribbon cutting for it at the Pig Roast. The \$9940 to WillyGoat was for the equipment, the rest went for installation needs and signage. Penal Fines are not listed for July, but arrived a few days ago and are once again incredibly low. In 2024, we were getting close to \$24,000 and got a little over \$12,000 in 2025 and about \$13,500 in 2026. Hesperia has 2,354 Newaygo County patrons and received \$3,719.02 and has 3,485 Oceana County residents and received \$18,454.56. Something feels very off here. Either Newaygo County has gone INCREDIBLY soft on crime or the penal fines are being diverted elsewhere. **Motion to accept financial report as presented:**

Motion: Pamela Chaffee Seconded: Kathy Broome

Vote: Yes- All

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT: Landscapers have trimmed the bushes in the back because we have once again had someone sleeping in them. They stayed from Saturday night through Sunday. When it was raining on Sunday, they stayed in a sleeping bag under the pavilion. We would not have known if the cleaning crew hadn't seen them and mentioned it. The City was asked to have the police do some patrolling on the weekends to keep an eye out. Some of the sprinklers needed to be adjusted so we will see an invoice next month. The County sprinklers were also lessened so they do not spray into the pavilion. The pavilion signs are on their way. One side will have Bookend Pavilion, and the other side will have the library logo 36"x36". Pig Roast tickets will go up to \$15 September 1st. At the end of September, we will be having a book/bake/more sale. 218 Kids signed up for the Summer Reading Program. 67 completed the program. We offered 45 grand prizes, as well as a large selection of table prizes. One of our kids won a Miranda summer reading program prize and we were on WoodTV 8 twice this summer for the kid's summer reading program. The fire department will be assisting with the pig roast again this year. They will have a table at the pig roast about the MFR millage, under the stipulation that it is completely for informational purposes and not partisan or asking for support.

NEW BUSINESS:

Committee Appointment: Judy presented her suggestions for committee appointments. All board members were happy with which appointments were recommended to each committee. **Motion to adopt suggested committee appointments:**

Motion: Nicole Heil Seconded: Kathy Broome

Vote: Yes- All

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Longevity:** Last month, the board adopted plan #5 (\$50 per year of service at year 1,5,10, etc) for a longevity framework and the Pam and Kathy met to discuss how to handle the possibility of back pay to the long-time employees for years of service not included in the new longevity framework. They would like some of the board to meet with staff to get their input before making any final recommendations. Final decision tabled until the next meeting.
2. **Parking Lot Discussion:** The parking lot will most likely not be done by the Pig Roast. We started this process on April 24, Amy met with Chris Wren, County Administrator to see if we could lifelong lease or purchase the few feet between our retaining wall and their pavement. Amy was told to go forward with bids and such. Once the pavement contractor was ready to being at the beginning of August, Amy reached out again because she had the survey in hand, but no official paperwork. She was asked to wait until August 12 for a final vote. August 13, Amy reached out and was told that it was approved and to move forward. Less than an hour later, another email came through that said we need to wait until August 26. While Amy would like to move forward with the extra space, at what cost do we continue to keep waiting and repeatedly telling our contractors that we once again do not have

an answer. This started in April so that we would be finished long before the Pig Roast and we will not meet that deadline and we will be lucky to get it completed prior to winter at this point as the contractors are moving us back in line because we don't seem to ever be ready. The board would like to stick with the previously passed motion regarding the parking lot and wall, unless there is an issue with the county board on August 26. Some board members are considering going to the county meeting to listen in.

3. **Grants:** SYI grant will be wrapping up soon and it is almost time to apply for the next one. Lynette is looking into a grant through the Gerber Foundation to expand the teen cooking classes. The MACC grant for the pavilion has its final report in January. The LSTA grant for the history kit will be wrapped up by the end of the month. The Gerber Foundation Maker Space grant will be wrapping up towards the end of the year, giving us time for programs. We have not heard yet if we need to apply for the Circulating Materials grant from the Fremont Area Community Foundation or if they will extend the automatic grant process again.
4. **Building:** We have received many great compliments on the pavilion. We will need to discuss rental agreements and such at a future time.

Public Comment: None

Board Comment: Sue: Merrill Township has been having a lot of turmoil and she because of that, she had considered resigning from the library board; however, Ron and Amy were on vacation the day she called so she had time to rethink it and is currently staying to support her local library! has been having trouble at Merrill Township and is worrying that it might follow her to the library.

Judy: Having surgery in September but doesn't believe it will be a problem for the meeting. Par Plan grant season is open. She is the listing agent for the former Rudert Agency on the corner of Wilcox and Charles and thought that it would make a great library location. She met with the Mayor, Brian Miller, and he expressed that removing another parcel from the tax roll would likely not go well with the Zoning in White Cloud. He also mentioned that he plans to continue to actively seek funding for the future site at Lester and Wilcox in hopes that if he secures full funding that the Library will work with the City to use this current building. It was pointed out that the other building is smaller and would need a lot of upgrades to meet what we currently have for our patrons.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn at 2:13 PM:

Motion: Linda Trapp Seconded: Kathy Broome
Vote: Yes- All No- Abstained- Absent-

Respectfully submitted

Ronald Phillips