

WHITE CLOUD COMMUNITY LIBRARY

BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING

January 15, 2026

MINUTES

A. Call to Order

The White Cloud Community Library Board of Director's Meeting held on the above date was called to order at 1:03 PM

1. Roll Call

Board Members Present: Judy Maike, Linda Trapp, Pat Ebenstein, Kathy Broome, Keri Collins, Pamela Chaffee

Board Members Absent: Sue Redding, Mark Huff

Also Present: Amy Stockwell, Director; Ronald Phillips, Assistant Director; Mindy Mench, Goodwill Project

2. Agenda: Approval of agenda for the board meeting held on January 15, 2026 with the addition of Board Secretary Election as number 4 of New Business.

Motion: Pat Ebenstein Seconded: Kathy Broome

Vote: Yes- All No- Abstained- Absent-Sue Redding, Mark Huff

B. **Minutes:** Approval of minutes from the board meeting held on November 20, 2025 as written.

Motion: Kathy Broome Seconded: Linda Trapp

Vote: Yes- All No- Abstained- Absent- Sue Redding, Mark Huff

C. **Public Comment:**

D. **Financial Reports:** Review of Financial. Nothing out of the ordinary. Tax revenue is trickling in. About 1/6 of the amount has come in and tax season is half way through. Our Hoopa usage has skyrocketed and because Hoopla is a pay by circ product, we are going to need to adjust our checkout limits. After 6 months, we have already used all of the amount budgeted for the year and are using up money added to the Hoopla account in previous years. We are currently at 10 checkouts per month. We may need to drop the number. Fremont does 7, some of the other Newaygo county libraries do 4. Amy has

a meeting with our Hoopla representative next week to discuss options. **Motion to accept financial documents as written:**

Motion: Pamela Chaffee Seconded: Kathy Broome

Vote: Yes- All No- Abstained- Absent- Sue Redding, Mark Huff

E. Librarian's Report- Randy Riley's, the State Librarian, obituary was included in the packets. His funeral was last Friday at the Library of Michigan. State Librarians are appointed and a replacement has not been selected yet. Amy has been in contact with Teri, the Clerk from Home Township about the letter that was sent; the letter had made its way to the treasurer. Clerk was eager to keep library services, so ongoing communications are likely. If no agreement is made, the contract will end in June 2026. Amy ran the numbers with help from the County, and if Home Township were to pay our millage rate, it would cost them \$30,000. They are currently paying just over \$300 in penal fines, so around 1% the rate. They had their township meeting earlier this week and we have not heard back. She was interested in getting one of the free little libraries, and may stop in over the next few weeks to get it and set it up themselves. At the Lakeland Meeting, some house bills were mentioned. Michigan House Bill 5379 attaches the library to other house bills that would end school and library millage property tax for residents that do not have a child in K-12 public schools. Our representative sponsored this bill. Library Advocacy Day is in April. The FAF is making some changes to their funding models. The library has had 2 endowments at the Foundation. The memo from the FAF makes it seem like if available funds are not taken out in a year, the amount is no longer available and is placed back into the principle. It is suggested that if this is how it works, we withdraw what is available this year and pay whatever is not covered by grants to install the pavilion. Other libraries with endowments through the Foundation are considering pulling the amount out every year and investing it. Speaking of endowments, a new endowment has also been created at the foundation for the library. Joan L. Johnson Richards has endowed \$25,000 to the Library. Amy would like to send a thank you card and express gratitude to Joan, but the Foundation has asked us to be patient and wait for more information. "Amy doesn't wait well!" A meeting with Rose Brannigan at FAF will happen next week and hopefully Amy will have more information after that. Thank you, Joan, for caring about your local library!

F. New Business:

- 1. Goodwill Project:** Mindy has visited to discuss a project through the Goodwill Project (Fremont Area Community Foundation). In 2025, 10 White Cloud people were hand-picked to come up with a community project, budgeted at \$10,000. After multiple meetings with each other and meeting with the city, it was decided

that the project would focus on the value of keeping the White Cloud feeling like "Home". The proposed area would be right behind the library in the County parking lot. It would involve a 20x40 strip along Wilcox and would include benches, planter, tables, etc. and would have shade built above, like a canopy. It would be open to the public. Ludington has a similar area and inspiration has been taken from their location. The Goodwill Project is looking for Letters of Support for the project, and it is expected to move forward in the Spring if all goes well. Logistics meeting with the city of White Cloud are still ongoing. Current plans would put the area in the NW corner of the county parking lot. Judy Maike recommended the vacant lot where LeMire's pharmacy used to be for the gathering space. Judy also recommended using the corner of Wilcox and M37 since the setbacks make it difficult to put in any sort of building. **Motion to allow Director Amy to write a letter of support for the Goodwill Project:**

Motion: Judy Maike Seconded: Kathy Broome

Vote: Yes- All No- Abstained- Absent- Sue Redding, Mark Huff

- 2. MERS HCSP Amendments and Provisions:** At the end of 2025, we came to realize that the paperwork turned into MERS for the HCSP didn't match the intention and didn't match the employee handbook. In addition to that, beginning January 1, 2026, employees were no longer eligible to do a voluntary contribution. Both full time employees were contributing at that time so MERS suggested that we adopted a mandatory employee contribution. Both current full time employees discussed it and agreed that a 1.5% contribution seemed good. All future full time employees will contribute as well. **Motion to amend our HCSP provisions to 100% pay out of PTO rollovers and a mandatory 1.5% employee contribution.**

Motion: Pat Ebentein Seconded: Pamela Chaffee

Vote: Yes- All No- Abstained- Absent- Sue Redding, Mark Huff

- 3. Workaversaries:** Pam and Amy will both be hitting 25 years of service this year. Other libraries do milestone recognitions, but they are all over the place. Some places do bonuses, some do giftcards, some do pins, some do larger one-time bonuses based on years of service, etc. Historically, we have only done this once when Nancy and Jessie retired. It is recommended that board members think about possible recognitions and come back in future meetings. It was recommended that workaversaries are recognized at the pig roast for the year, and day-of is just small work celebrations, like cake. Tabled until March meeting.

- 4. Board Secretary Election:** We haven't filled the Secretary position since Chris's passing, but that will become tricky with upcoming year end so we need to fill it.
Motion to elect Kathy Broome as Secretary of the Library Board:

Motion: Pamela Chaffee Seconded: Keri Collins

Vote: Yes- All No- Abstained- Absent- Sue Redding, Mark Huff

5. Old Business:

A. Grants: T-Mobile grant is re-submitted. A grant through the Michigan Arts and Cultural Council for the pavilion is also getting submitted. Lynette is submitting a grant to Molina Healthcare for caregiver burnout assistance.

B. Building: Parking lot is beginning to look bad. It may need to be worked on soon.

C. Donations: - Refer back to Librarian's Report

D. Public Comment: None

E. Board Comments:

F. Correspondence:

G. Adjournment: Motion to adjourn at 2:11 PM.

Motion: Judy Maike Seconded: Pat Ebenstein

Vote: Yes- All No- Abstained- Absent- Sue Redding, Mark Huff

Respectfully submitted

Ronald Phyllips