Waseca-Le Sueur Regional Library Board Meeting Minutes

September 8th, 2025 | Le Center Public Library

Present: Bette Traxler, Zella Vandervort, Patrick Tebbe, Louise Lund, John King, Brian Schanil, De Malterer, Cheri Lewer
Absent:
Others: Stacy Lienemann (Director), Afton Finley (Staff),

I. Call to order: The Library Board of Trustees meeting was called to order by President Bette Traxler at 5:01 pm.
II. Additions to the Agenda:

- Motion by Schanil and seconded by Vandervort to approve the agenda. Approved.

III. Approval of the August meeting minutes:

- Lewer was not at the meeting, but was listed there under bills
- Motion by King and seconded by Malterer to approve the meeting minutes. Approved.

IV. Approval of September bills:

- One of the CDs was cashed out and put in the savings account. We were reimbursed for the insurance check.
- Motion by Schanil and seconded by Lewer to approve the bills. Approved.
- Voted for Bette Traxler, Zella Vandervort, Patrick Tebbe, Cheri Lewer, Louise Lund, John King, Brian Schanil, De Malterer
- King shared that the Le Sueur County Commissioners reviewed the proposed budget. They have questions about which funds will and will not be absorbed. Currently, Le Sueur is not looking to approve the budget unless it's the same as 2025.
- Malterer said Waseca County Commissioners said it would double the levy. The Waseca County Board is going to educate the public on this information; however, it's taking it from one line item and putting it in another.
- Malterer stated we currently have control over the reserves, so we could have a 0% increase like Le Sueur County wants, but use our reserves to make up the difference, which will show up either this year or next year on the county taxes.
- Discussion paused and will continue later in the agenda.

V. Circulation, Activities, and Events Report:

- See the circulation and activities report.
- 4.86 circulation decreases in August but will increase throughout the year. Vandervort asked about the number of wireless users in Waterville; the number is correct from the Technology report from TdS.

VI. Old Business:

A.

VII. New Business:

A. 2026 Preliminary Budget
    a. Our health insurance will increase by 18.37% and we are setting aside money for the new family paid leave. Lienemann found a grant opportunity to pay for the digital skills position; we will not find out about that until December. The county absorption could

affect our accounting, auditing, and insurance fees. It's an increase of around $73,000 more than last year.

b. Vandervort stated the importance of educating the citizens on the absorption of the library system.
c. Malterer wants the two county boards to meet and have the same narrative.
d. Lienemann stated that the majority of our budget increase is due to the high insurance increase and the cost-of-living increase. The county absorption makes library staff county employees and should be getting health insurance and cost-of-living increases like other county employees.
e. Traxler wants to know if the library reserves are not going to be earmarked for the library, not to buy down taxes. King said the library will not need the reserves, but will not have unexpected expenses.
f. Lienemann said she was unable to attend the Le Sueur County meeting due to the health insurance meeting. The Waseca County meeting went well; there were some questions, but nothing about line items. However, she hasn't been included in a lot of the conversations.
g. Discussion of the cost per citizen.
h. Motion by Schanil and second by Tebbe to approve the preliminary 2026 budget as presented. Approved.

B. Summer Reading Program Report
    a. We are up in every category except for the number of events. We had more participants. We did more with fewer events. We have worked hard to figure out what is going to get people in.
C. Fall 2025 Event Preview
    a. We are doing a bigger push for preschool events. As Waseca has said, they have found that kids are not coming into kindergarten prepared.
D. Board Terms (Brian Schanil, Patrick Tebbe)
    a. Brian Schanil will be stepping down after this year as he will be moving in 2026.
    b. Patrick Tebbe accepted another three-year term.

VIII. TdS Report

- Windows 10 support will be ending in October. They are going to a standardized process for damaged materials and a universal card. The Board voted not to renew their MLA memberships. The new Tech Services manager has started. Stacey Lungsford would like to be invited to the library Board Meetings.

IX. Director's Report

- See the Director's Report.
- June and Stacy spoke at the City Council meeting in Waterville, and there was not much to say. There hasn't been a response to the request of the Library Board to speak with the city council. At the following meeting, it was found that an inspection was never conducted on the building.
- King asked who was responsible for furnishing the library. Lienemann has told the city administrator that we could help with grants.

X. Board Comments and Questions

- 4M emailed Schanil about investing, and he let them know of the changes happening. Lienemann also let the accountants know.

XI. Next Month's Meeting Location

- Next month's meeting is on October 13th at the Waldorf Public Library.

XII. Adjournment

- Traxler adjourned the meeting at 6:54 pm.