Whiting Public Library
Regular Monthly Meeting
September 9, 2025

Board Members Present:
Walter Wachel, President
Ashley Sudar, Vice President
Mary Lu Cowley, Secretary
Daniel Catlin, Board Member
Scot Kokandy, Board Member

Board Members Absent:
Amy Holmes, Treasurer

Guests:

Others:
Montserrat Inglada, Director
Laura Lopez, Recording Secretary

Public:
Mary Kershner, 2108 Lincoln Ave., Whiting, Indiana

A notice of the Regular Board Meeting was posted at the Ohio Avenue entrance and posted on the library website on September 4, 2025.

Mr. Wachel, President, called the public hearing to order at 6:22 p.m.

Public Hearing on the 2026 Budget
The "Notice to Taxpayers of Budget Estimates and Tax Levies" was submitted online through Gateway/Department of Local Government Finance on August 13, 2025.

The proposed Operating Fund budget for 2026 is $1,565,435. The proposed 2026 Library Improvement Reserve Fund (LIRF) budget is $13,000. The allowed growth quotient for 2026 is 4%.

The Budget Adoption Meeting will be held on October 14, 2025.

Mr. Wachel asked if there were any remonstrances against the proposed budget for FY2026. He repeated the same question three (3) times as required by Indiana Statute.

There being no public in attendance, there were no remonstrances.

Adjournment
Mr. Kokandy moved:
THAT the public hearing be adjourned.
SECONDED by: Ms. Sudar **ACTION: Public Hearing adjourned 6:25 p.m.**

Mr. Wachel, President, called the regular board meeting to order at 6:25 p.m.

<u>Approval of the Minutes of the Executive Board Meeting – August 7, 2025</u>
Mrs. Cowley moved:
THAT the minutes of the August 7, 2025 Executive Board Meeting be approved as submitted.
SECONDED by: Mr. Kokandy **ACTION: Carried Unanimously**

<u>Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting – August 12, 2025</u>
Ms. Sudar moved:
THAT the minutes of the August 12, 2025 Regular Board Meeting be approved as submitted.
SECONDED by: Mr. Kokandy **ACTION: Carried Unanimously**

<u>Report from Board President</u>
- Mr. Wachel is requesting the Board packets be published so that staff can see them.
- All staff managers should share information with Montserrat to be included in her Director's report.
- Mr. Wachel requests that Montserrat make arrangements for an Executive Session on Saturday Sept. 20, 2025 at either City Hall or Attorney Curosh's office at 11 a.m for 2 hours; Alex Hanba presented extensive material to review and the board needs time to digest.
- The Board requests that Montserrat send Adrienne DeLuna an email confirming they received her updated information for a raise, it is under board review, and that she will have an answer shortly.

<u>Director's Report</u>
Friends Group
- The Friends group has asked for our help in recruiting new members. Following the recent passing of their Vice-President, Donna M. Tsikurios, and with several members facing health challenges, they are struggling to sustain the organization. They are specifically seeking a new officer and additional volunteers to help with their activities.

Citron Contract Cancellation
- The contract with Citron is up for renewal in October. Montserrat recommends not renewing due to a Cost 4.8% price increase, which would bring the monthly cost to $238 a month. We are already evaluating alternative options from suppliers like Grainger and Uline.

Tuckpointing
- Mike is soliciting a quote.

Building Renovation Update

Contract and Payments

- The director met with Mr. Curosh to review the contract. At his request, the Pay Application and Payment dates will be adjusted. Insurance Requirements were also discussed with our insurance Agent, Adam Rothchild; Studio GC is incorporating his suggested changes. We are waiting for final approval from Gariup on all amendments.

Construction progress

- Downstairs bathrooms; plumbing is complete and has passed inspection.
- Phase 1 electrical work is nearly complete.
- Abatement for the chandelier and new study room area is scheduled for this week.
- Drywall installation over the wooden paneling is finished.

Disaster Plan, Annual Review
Mr. Kokandy moved:
THAT the Disaster Plan be approved with corrections.
SECONDED by: Ms. Sudar **ACTION: Carried Unanimously**

Internet Use Policy
Mr. Kokandy moved:
THAT the Internet Use Policy be approved as submitted.
SECONDED by: Ms. Sudar **ACTION: Carried Unanimously**

Board Meeting, reschedule
Ms. Sudar moved:
THAT the November board meeting date change approved at the September regular board meeting be rescinded and kept at the original set date, time, and place: November 11, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in the Meeting Room of the Whiting Public Library.
SECONDED by: Mr. Kokandy **ACTION: Carried Unanimously**

Resolution to Open Bank Account and Designate Authorized Signers
The motion to approve the Resolution to Open Bank Account and Designate Authorize Signers with Peoples Bank to be used specifically for the Whiting Public Library's 2025 Renovation escrow account passed unanimously.

Adjournment
Ms. Sudar moved:
THAT the meeting be adjourned.
SECONDED by: Mrs. Waszak **ACTION: Meeting Adjourned 6:51p.m.**

Walter Wachel, President

Ashley Sudar, Vice-President

Mary Lu Cowley, Secretary

Amy Holmes, Treasurer

Daniel Catlin, Board Member

Scot Kokandy, Board Member

Estela Waszak, Board Member

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Lopez

Reviewed by: Mary Lu Cowley, Board Secretary