

**HOWELL CARNEGIE DISTRICT LIBRARY**  
**Board of Trustees Meeting**  
**Minutes of November 11, 2025**

President Kathryn Tuck called the regular meeting of the Howell Carnegie District Library to order at 7:00 pm.

Susan Pominville moved to approve the agenda as presented. Jacob Schlittler seconded, and a quorum of the board unanimously approved.

Members present: Jennifer Earl, Bob Ellis, Susan Pominville, Jacob Schlittler, Maria Stuart, and Kathryn Tuck. Library Director Holly Ward Lamb, Head of Youth Services Janice Heilman, and Julie McColl from Bredernitz, Wagner & Co., P.C. were also present. Three members of the public also attended the meeting.

Member(s) absent: Heather White.

Maria Stuart moved to excuse Heather White's absence. Bob Ellis seconded, and a quorum of the board unanimously approved.

**IN-SERVICE TRAINING**

Julie McColl from Bredernitz, Wagner & Co., P.C., reviewed the 2024-2025 financial audit with the trustees.

Bob Ellis moved to approve the consent agenda as presented, including **a) Minutes of October 14, 2025; b) Bills & Payrolls, including the payment register dated 10/01/25 through 10/31/25 for the amount of \$231,423.56; and c) Library Closings 2026 and updates to the Board Meeting Policies.** Susan Pominville seconded, and a quorum of the board unanimously approved.

**Comments from the Public:** None

**President Kathryn Tuck** reported that she had a lovely time with the team at MLA two weeks ago in Lansing. She noted that trustees of any level (including future presidents) can learn something from the conference. She also stated that library programs are beloved by many, and was approached by a library patron who saw her at Tail Waggin' Tutors and was very enthusiastic about the

library. She noted that an interaction like this reaffirms why we're here and what we're doing, and she was very excited to participate.

**The treasurer's report** is part of the library board packet. Treasurer Bob Ellis briefly reviewed the report with the board. Since no action is required, the report is filed.

There were no **committee reports** in October.

**In addition to her written report, Director Holly Ward Lamb stated** that the December gathering will be at Chemung Hills Country Club on Tuesday, December 9, at 7:00 pm. She also advised that each of the remaining Carnegie Libraries in the country will receive a \$10,000 donation from the Carnegie Foundation to celebrate the United States's Semiquincentennial.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- Susan Pominville moved to pursue the library's dispute over the change in property status from exempt from ad valorem property taxation to commercial vacant for the two contiguous undeveloped parcels of land located at 217 N. Center, Howell, Michigan (assigned property parcel numbers 4717-36-102-052 and 4717-36-102-053), to the Michigan Tax Tribunal. Holly Ward Lamb reminded the board of its recent decision to seek legal advice on a dispute over the city's change in the library's undeveloped property status, which would make the property taxable rather than exempt. Bob Ellis stated that the library property does not meet the criteria for tax exemption, even though it had been designated as such since it was purchased by the library in 2006. Still, Maria Stuart noted that the public is using it at will, and the board previously agreed to follow our tax attorney's advice and dispute the status change. Jennifer Earl seconded, and a quorum of the board unanimously approved.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- Bob Ellis moved to change the start time of the December 9, 2025, board meeting from 7:00 pm to 6:00 pm. Jacob Schlittler seconded, and a quorum of the board unanimously approved.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

- Holly Ward Lamb advised that the State of Michigan will increase its Minimum Wage starting January 1, 2026, and the library's pay structure will be adjusted to reflect the change.
- After discussion, the board agreed to invite Dana Wnuk, Executive Director for the Howell Opera House, to speak at the January 2026 board meeting, and Shannon Coker, Parks and Programs Coordinator for the City of Howell, to the April 2026 board meeting.
- Service Spotlight: Displays honoring local veterans.

**COMMENTS & CONCERNS OF BOARD MEMBERS**

None.

Without objection, President Kathryn Tuck adjourned the meeting at 8:09 pm.

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Kathleen Murray, Recording Secretary