

January 13, 2026  
Franklin County Library Board Minutes

Members Present: Ruth Cook, Marilyn Amerson, Suzan Banks, Linda Hippisley, Susan Nelson and Rebecca Ventola, director.

Chairman Worley was unable to attend. Vice-chairman Ruth Cook called the meeting to order and presided over the meeting.

Due to inclement weather, the Board did not have meetings in November and December, therefore, the October minutes and the November, December, and January financial reports were approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

- As there were no meetings since October, the Board (by email confirmation) approved supporting the “Raising the Shade” Group which will be erecting a monument in the downtown area honoring the African-American soldiers from Franklin County who fought for the Union in the Civil War.
- The Friends of the Library completed moving materials from the basement to the former Mann Room. With sales averaging around \$1200 each month, the relocation to the downstairs location has proven successful.
- Director Ventola reported that all reports (for example, Bibliostats to the state) and local budget requests have been submitted. In addition, capital improvement and rollover requests are in. Also, the bookmobile needs a new generator and that request has also been submitted.
- Director Ventola announced that the first ever staff day was held on December 4. Virginia State Library’s Cindy Church--a former NASA librarian and, for many years, the head of Continuing Education at State Library, led the discussion on delivering exceptional customer service. Director Ventola

also held a safety meeting with staff and requested staff suggestions and input.

- December's "Food for Fines" program provided food for a local food bank and, also, relieved many families of overdue library fines.
- "Come Home to a Franklin County Christmas" brought about another successful pairing with a county event as the Library showed off its new book sale room and offered entertainment and (what at least one library visitor claimed) to be the "best hot chocolate in town" that evening.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

- Director Ventola announced that the first-ever staff day was held on December 4. Virginia State Library's indy Church--a former NASA librarian and, for many years the head of Continuing Education at Virginia State Library led the discussion on delivering exceptional customer service.
- Director Ventola reported that the library will roll out hotspots for public circulation beginning in February.
- The Board reviewed and approved the new policy for mobile hotspots as well as the revised policy for the Local History Room. Following an information session provided by Children's Librarian and 3 D print guru Dorothy Anderson, the Board also approved the revised 3 D Printer policy.
- The Friends of the Library have long been a staple of support for the Library; however, recently, our Friends group has experienced difficulties with family health issues and declining membership. Director Ventola has arranged a meeting with the Foundation to see how they might assist the Friends and support Library programming.

- New County Administrator, Steve Sandy, would like to have the County Department Heads tour all the county departments and he wants to start with the Library. The Library tour will take place the first Wednesday in March.

**The next meeting of the Board of Trustees will meet Tuesday, February 10. Please email Bethany if you will be unable to attend.**

Respectfully submitted by  
Marilyn Amerson, Secretary