

OWEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The Owen County Library Board of Trustees met in regular session on Tuesday, August 18, 2026.

Call to Order

Trustee Petzinger called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m. Attending the meeting were Wes Petzinger, Mark McMillen, Glenn Manns, Martha Hamilton, Beckie Brown, Assistant Director Kim Hunter, and Director Cyndi Clifton

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Approval of minutes

Trustee Petzinger made a motion to approve the minutes for July. Trustee Manns seconded. All voted aye.

Financial Reports and Disbursements

The general operating account and the reconciliation details were reviewed, as well as the credit card expenses for the month. All expenses were in line with the approved budget.

Trustee Manns made the motion to approve the Financial Report. Trustee Hamilton seconded. All voted aye.

Library Statistics

On the Library Statistics Report for July, we had 2305 patrons who used all library services. 36 programs were held with 395 participants. Public computer users numbered 216. The website had 847 hits. Circulation was 6623. Inter-library loans numbered 16 for the month, and Hoopla/Overdrive/Kanopy had 854 users.

Regional Librarian Report KDLA

2027 KDLA Grant Cycle

- Deadline: August 31, 2026.
- Website Grant: Up to \$9,000 for ADA compliance.
- Planning Grant: Cohort program for 3–5-year strategic plans.
- Health Grant: Up to \$3,000 for health kits and telehealth.
- Education Grant: Covers tuition and webinars (no conferences).

Foundational Leadership Training

- Deadline: August 24, 2026 (First-come basis).
- Details: 15+ hour hybrid course for emerging leaders.

Librarian's Report

- Neighbor Property: The Director granted temporary permission for the rear neighbor to mow 3–4 passes on library property to deter pests near their RV. After some discussion, the board was in agreement to allow the neighbor to mow what he wanted. No formal approval is needed.
- School Emergency Plan: The Director approved a request from Owen County Emergency Management Coordinator Tim Cammack to use the library Meeting Room for press briefings during a school active shooter emergency.
- Staffing Updates: Leah permanently assumed bookmobile duties. Amber Roberts was hired as the new part-time Outreach/Circulation Assistant (20 hours/week) starting August 18th.

Assistant Director's Report

Kim reported that summer reading has ended. We collected 75 reading logs and gave out 25 prize packages. This is more than last year. We also handed out small activity prizes. Registration was lower than in 2025, but we gained regular patrons. Our teen programs are very popular, so Kaileigh will add after-school programs. New library cards were signed up.

Business

The library requires a permanent sewer solution, including digging a new manhole and installing a backflow device. Because the restrooms will be out of service during this work, the Board discussed closing the library for a half-day or full-day, depending on the plumber's timeline. Cyndi will contact the plumber to confirm the required hours and finalize the closure schedule.

Trustee Manns made the motion to approve closure. Trustee Petzinger seconded. All voted aye.

The Board reviewed the tax rate data received from the Department of Local Government and voted to adopt the compensating tax rate. Cyndi will officially present this finalized decision at the Fiscal Court Meeting next week. Trustee Manns made the motion to approve comp tax rate. Trustee McMillen seconded. All voted aye.

The next meeting will be held on September 15, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. at OCPL. Trustee McMillen made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Hamilton seconded the motion. All voted aye. The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 am

Respectfully submitted by:

Beckie Brown