

# MANHATTAN-ELWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT BOARD MINUTES

240 Whitson Street \* Manhattan \* IL \* 60442

July 28, 2025

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees, Manhattan-Elwood Public Library District was called to order at 4:30pm.

**ROLL CALL:** Present: (voting members): Amanda Dearing, Keri English, Patti Blatti, Jan Krekel, Tom Murray  
Library Staff: Ashley Hopper, Director

**CHANGES TO AGENDA:** None.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

**AUDIENCE TO VISITORS:** None

**MINUTES:** Minutes from June 23, 2025 were approved as written. Motion made by Trustee Blatti and seconded by Trustee English. Minutes from the Closed Session (1) were approved. Motion made by Trustee Blatti and seconded by Trustee Dearing. Both motions were approved unanimously.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** The Per Capita Grant was awarded to the library in the amount of \$22,501.13. A donation was made in honor of Grace Niemiec.

**FINANCIAL REPORTS:** June financials were approved as presented. The motion was made by Trustee Blatti and seconded by Trustee English. The motion passed unanimously with a roll call vote.

**PAYMENT OF SPECIAL BILLS:** None.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** Given by Director Hopper.

**COMMITTEES:**

- **Budget Committee- None**
- **Serving Our Public-** Chapters 3 & 4 were tabled. Chapters 3-6 will be covered next month by Trustees Mason and Krekel.
- **Village of Elwood Committee –None**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- **Ordinance 25-2- Ordinance Determining to Levy an additional tax of 2% -** A motion was made Trustee Blatti that Ordinance 25-2 be adopted to levy an additional tax of .02% for the 2026-27 fiscal year. Motion was seconded by Trustee English. The motion passed unanimously with a roll call vote.
- **Future Planning –** Director Hopper led a discussion on some of the challenges of the library space and room for staff and programming. Some items are being moved to Elwood for storage and to fill holds. The library still has a storage unit rental. There was a discussion about the possibility of moving some shelves to make more space for a teen area. The board also discussed the need for a future campaign for donations and grants to provide more space.

**Board Comments:** ILA has trustee training available. More information at the next meeting. Liam Golub obtained his Eagle Scout ranking and thanked the library for the opportunity to do his final project here.

**ADJOURNMENT:** A motion to adjourn was made by Trustee English and seconded by Trustee Dearing at 5:57PM.

Respectively submitted,  
Ashley Hopper, Director