

FLAGG-ROCHELLE PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT

Board of Trustees - Regular Session

November 20, 2025

Trustees Present: Teresa Haggestad, Jackie Dickow, Lanning Nicoloff, Faten Abdallah, Sheri Klindera, Sue Sevedge, Darci Waltrip.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Sarah K. Flanagan, Library Director; Juan Martinez, Assistant Library Director.

Call to Order: At 7:07pm, Mrs. Haggestad called the Truth and Taxation Hearing to order. With no comments offered, she closed that meeting shortly thereafter. The Regular Meeting was then called to order at 7:07pm.

Minutes: Mrs. Haggestad requested a motion to approve the October 2025 Regular Session minutes. Mrs. Dickow so made the motion and Mrs. Sevedge seconded. Motion carried.

Finances: The November 2025 Vendors' Lists and bills were presented. Baker & Taylor, the business we have bought books from for decades, is going out of business at the end of the year. Finding a replacement will be difficult, as Amazon is reporting that books on its site are being written by Artificial Intelligence, with pages and even whole sections of text missing. Libraria is a company that we are trying out and our first order with them has been placed. Sterling Roofing patched a hole in our roof right above an area where a fire alarm is located and affected it enough to cause the fire panel to go off one morning. Upon inspection, the unit was completely submersed in water from within; it will be replaced on Friday. A motion to approve the Vendors' List was made by Mrs. Abdallah and seconded by Mrs. Klindera. Motion carried.

The Financial Reports were discussed next with an overview of the October 2025 expenditures. We received our Fifth Tax Distribution on October 29 in the amount of \$23,428.32; there should be one or two more tax distributions before the end of the year.

Recognition of Visitors: Jeff Hartwig, long time library patron, introduced himself to the Board and said that he attended today's meeting out of curiosity to see what they deal with during a typical meeting.

Old Business: The bidding process from Willett Hoffman for the roof replacement will cost \$15,000 -- \$6,500 set for the construction phase, \$3,500 for the bid phase, and \$5,000 in other costs, all not to exceed \$15,000. This would be on top of any quote that was given for the job, either \$55,000 or \$75,000 depending on how the roof is repaired. As for the air handler, no packet has been sent yet but one will be as we're curious to see bid prices. Measurements were made weeks ago and parts will have to be ordered via Helm. Our building blueprints were scanned and made available to us on a USB drive.

New Business: The Levy was presented and a roll call vote was initiated, with everyone present voting "yea". Motion carried. The Secretary will certify it with the Library Seal and Mrs. Haggestad will have it notarized so that it can be sent out to the County for filing. The 12-month Treasurer's Report – with all the bills, salary ranges, vendors, funds, and more accounted for the Fiscal Year – was presented. The Per Capita Grant for FY2026, usually about \$19,000 awarded, will be due in January and it'll focus on 12 core standards, some of which were Access, Advocacy, Collection Management, Finance and Budget, Human Resources, Infrastructure, Technology, and others. We will need to come up with examples and ideas for each category.

On Friday, October 24th, around 1 – 2 PM, auditor George Ghanayem from the Crusaders For The First Amendment group paid the library a surprising visit and recorded staff answering his questions about Library operations, Board Member lists, budgetary numbers, and other information their group deems as should be made readily available for the asking. Director Sarah Flanagan, the FOIA officer for the library, had handled him well enough but the idea with this group is that they record staff, hope to provoke a reaction of some kind, and then monetize that reaction via video postings online on sites such as YouTube. While this visit, which understandably shook up the staff present, is a first for our library, City Hall has been visited a number of times as well as Rochelle Park District. The library has since added signage and has received information from Rosie at City Hall on how to best handle future visits, to be shared and discussed during the December Staff Work Day; legal advice was also sought out and provided for by our library attorney Phil Lenzini.

Our in-person audit will be on November 24th, with people from Sikich coming in to work on it. We have provided lots of documentation and reports online via their Surlink service to assist them in their efforts and to shorten their time here on-site. The Board set this year's library staff Christmas gift amounts, with part-time staff each receiving \$75 and full-time staff each receiving \$150. A vote was motioned by Mrs. Dickow and seconded by Mrs. Abdallah. Motion carried. The need for a December Board Meeting was discussed, with the Board deciding against one, motioned by Ms. Waltrip and seconded by Mrs. Sevedge. Motion carried.

Librarian's Report: We have a wonderful staff that patrons support and they helped to make Family Reading Night a success; they are happy with the programming that we've been offering. Sikich will be doing our audit on November 24th. The Library will participate in the Christmas Walk in December and offer a Christmas movie, real hot chocolate, and snacks. Sarah attended the latest Delegates Meeting and libraries were discussing what to do about Baker & Taylor, where we've bought all of our library books through and have been a loyal customer for 30+ years, closing its doors at the end of the year; we are in the process of finding other publishers and distributors for our book orders. Hammy, the team mascot of the Rockford IceHogs, will be our special guest for "Reading With ___" program on Saturday, December 6th. A special Polar Express edition of our middle school and high school students' Dungeons and Dragons program will be held from 10 AM to 12 PM. The NSDAR will be exhibiting an American Revolution Travelling Exhibit upstairs in the main library from November 20th – December 17th, with informative banner displays, handouts, literature, artefacts, interactive kiosks, and a guestbook.

Adjournment: A motion was made by Ms. Waltrip and seconded by Mrs. Sevedge to adjourn the meeting at 7:43 pm.

Juan Martinez
Recording Secretary
Approved: