

ALICE BAKER MEMORIAL LIBRARY BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
Approved

**Call to Order:** R. Spurrell called the meeting to order at 6:30pm on July 14, 2025.

**Roll Call:** M. Rice, M. Faretta, R. Spurrell, B. Puza, D. Knauer, and H. Lang were present. The seventh seat was vacant as J. Kujawa's term expired. Also present were library staff S. Lottes Johansen and several residents. Library Director A. Chase was absent due to a family concern.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** R. Spurrell led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Announcement of possible closed session pursuant to WI State Statute §19.85(1)(f) for preliminary consideration of specific personnel problems which, if discussed in public, would be likely to have a substantial adverse effect upon the reputation of any person referred to, as related to staff duties/performance and policy adherence:** R. Spurrell announced the preceding.

**Public Comment:** K. Lang from Matthew Lane, Eagle, referred to an email she sent before the June meeting regarding the Collaborative Summer Reading Program (CSLP) used by all Bridges libraries. She handed out an excerpt from the CSLP Inclusion Checklist for early childhood and pointed out the DEI and pro-LGBTQ agenda. This includes recommendations that staff complete DEI training, avoid specific historical events, ask all program presenters/participants for their pronouns, and discuss stereotypes with the group when a child brings it up. K. Lang stated that pushing this agenda is different than "all views are welcome" in the library. She reports she does not believe this agenda aligns with the community's values, and asked the Board to consider whether CSLP or any other programs the Library pays for aligns with the community's values.

**Review/Approval of meeting minutes from May 12, 2025:** Motion by D. Knauer to approve minutes as presented. Second by M. Rice. Motion carried unanimously. (6-0).

**Review/Approval of meeting minutes from June 16, 2025:** Motion by D. Knauer to approve minutes as presented. Second by M. Rice. Motion carried unanimously. (6-0).

**Review/Approval of Library Accounts Payable:** D. Knauer noted that several items are past due. S. Johansen stated she called Southern Lakes and will not have a fee for this month; the other items will also not have fees. D. Knauer asked where the Zoom license is in the budget; S. Johansen stated this is under Reserve Technology. Motion by D. Knauer to approve Library Accounts Payable. Second by H. Lang. Motion passed unanimously (6-0).

**Review/Approval of Library Financial Report:** H. Lang reported she twice looked through the library invoices for the month and was unable to make them fit into the Numbers report. S. Johansen stated the Numbers report is based on accrual and entry dates, not invoice dates. The Board discussed how accounting should work and how the reports do not currently line up. The Town will be taking over the accounting soon which should clear up the reports. M. Rice asked about the Acquisition Replacement not fitting into the budget; there is no money budgeted for Acquisition Replacement. The Board discussed how there is no remainder in the line item for Operations Revenue. S. Johansen will put remainders in all lines for future reference. M. Rice noted we have a very small interest rate on the large savings account. D. Knauer noted that the new CD is missing from the Waukesha State Bank statement. Because the Town will be taking over accounting very soon, these issues will hopefully be resolved with the new reports. Motion by M. Rice to approve Library Financial Report. Second by D. Knauer. Motion passed unanimously (6-0).

**Review/Approval of Library Board Treasurer's Report:** Motion by D. Knauer to approve Library Board Treasurer's Report. Second by M. Faretta. Motion passed unanimously (6-0).

**Discussion regarding the use of the Municipal Building:** R. Spurrell noted there is a Room Use Policy that states the users of the Municipal Building room must return it to the state that it was. The Library has been using the room and not putting it back; this has been verified by the Town cameras. R. Spurrell stated that if the Library does not put the room back the way it is supposed to be, the Library will lose the privilege to use the room. He will send an email to A. Chase informing her of this since she was not present at the meeting.

**Discussion/Action on advocacy for the Library:** Motion by D. Knauer to table until next month. Second by H. Lang. Motion passed unanimously (6-0).

**Discussion/Action on Village of Eagle Impact Fees/Reserve Funds:** R. Spurrell noted that there has been no discussion on this topic for several months. Motion by R. Spurrell to remove this item from the agenda until someone is ready to bring ideas to the Board for how to utilize fees. Second by H. Lang. Motion passed unanimously (6-0).

**Discussion/Action on storage of adult and FABLE materials:** Motion by D. Knauer to postpone until next meeting. Second by M. Faretta. Motion passed unanimously (6-0).

**Discussion/Action on status of Town's Fiscal Agent and Accounting Process:** D. Knauer presented a full chart of accounts developed by the Town clerk M. Christian, S. Johansen, and D. Knauer that lists the Quick Books Balance Sheet, Budget Accounts, and Numbers Report Accounts. D. Knauer reports M. Christian is ready to backdate the Library accounts to July 1 and begin the Library accounting with the Town. S. Johansen and M. Christian will simultaneously keep the books for the next month to compare and confirm accuracy during the transfer. The Board discussed the high quote from Lucida for the 2025 audit; they discussed whether or not to accept it. D. Knauer will talk to M. Christian to request an updated quote from Lucida. Motion by R. Spurrell to have Town Clerk begin library accounting from July 1 if she is ready for that. Second by D. Knauer. Motion carried (6-0).

**Discussion/Action on Library Recurring Cost Policy/Fiscal Policy:** Motion by H. Lang to table the Fiscal Policy until next month. Second by M. Rice. Motion carried (6-0). Motion by D. Knauer to approve the Library Recurring Cost Policy with two discussed modifications. Second by H. Lang. Motion carried (6-0).

**Discussion on Director Job Description:** Motion by R. Spurrell to table until the August meeting. Second by D. Knauer. Motion carried (6-0).

**Discussion/Action on computer filters:** M. Rice discussed the importance of protecting children from ideas and images that are too heavy for them. He mentioned how the American Library Association (ALA) goes against the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA); the ALA supports children having access to pornography and other explicit materials and calls it "free speech". He stated that we are supposed to be protecting kids, not harming them by allowing them to view this material.

M. Rice also noted that nowhere else in the world, except the library, can you give a child access to these materials and not be held responsible. However, in the ABML policies, it states multiple times that the Library is not responsible for children accessing any material.

M. Rice also noted that the Library's website currently says it affirms three ALA documents, the American Library Association's Code of Ethics, Library Bill of Rights, and Freedom to Read

Statement, all of which specifically prevent age from being a consideration in access. He stated the ABML Board could easily change its policies to uphold full access for adults and remove the age comment, which would protect children from obscene materials. If parents want their children to see those materials, they should give specific permission for that, not the other way around.

M. Faretta noted that she would like to see computer filters that prevent explicit content entirely. If an adult is viewing pornography on those computers, it will inevitably impose on others in the library. Children and others will surely walk past the computers on the way to the restroom and see the obscene material. Therefore, permitting access to pornographic material to anyone still poses an issue for children and others.

R. Spurrell noted that the Code of Conduct policy prohibits using offensive language or gestures and wearing insufficient clothing. He noted that viewing pornography on the computers automatically brings this behavior into the library, which behavior is already disallowed by the Code of Conduct policy.

M. Rice noted that the ALA has great power, and anytime anyone starts pushing back against its agenda of permitting children to view pornography, the ALA will react. The ALA's website even has a reporting page where anyone can report a perceived violation of ALA principles. He warned everyone to be aware that the Board will experience blowback from the ALA if we take any drastic measures to protect children in disagreement to the ALA's position.

D. Knauer asked about the difference between using pornography on the computer and using pornographic books. H. Lang noted there is a difference between obscene books and intellectual materials. The Board discussed the meaning of obscene, whether removing obscene books is objectively possible, and whether obscene books impose on other people like the computers do. The Board stated they would like to start with computer filters and discuss obscene books later.

Motion by H. Lang to revise the Public Computers and Internet and Wireless Access policy. Second by M. Rice, who will bring a revised policy proposal before the Board next month. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

**Discussion/Action on \$5,000 Bridges Planning Grant:** The Board discussed what this was for; it was not completely clear due to A. Chase not being present. Motion by R. Spurrell to move forward with the \$5,000 Bridges Grant to assist in writing the Strategic Plan. Second by D. Knauer. Motion carried (6-0).

**Discussion/Action on Waukesha County Standards:** H. Lang noted that the Standards must be returned to Bridges by August 31, so we have time to review in August. Motion by R. Spurrell to table until the August meeting. Second by H. Lang. Motion carried (6-0).

**Discussion/Action on Strategic Plan 2025-2028:** No action taken.

**Discussion/Action on parental signature requirements for minors under 18:** S. Johansen reported that the form that listed age 14 has been updated to list age 17, as age 14 was incorrect. H. Lang will do more research to confirm this issue has been resolved.

**Discussion/Action on collection development and weeding:** Motion by R. Spurrell to table until next meeting. Second by M. Faretta. Motion carried (6-0).

#### **Reports:**

**a. Village of Eagle:** R. Spurrell reported they are working on budgets, the Village has a new clerk, and the Village annexed 160 acres from the Town at the last meeting.

**b. Town of Eagle:** D. Knauer reported on income and expense YTD, Lake Management wake

enhancement ordinance being sent to the DNR, DPW radio upgrades, merry go round going back into the Town Park, ATV/UTV signage, and the budget. The Town is reviewing options for the library budget, which is the fourth largest item in the annual budget. These options include keeping the budget the same, running an additional tax which would have to be voted on by residents, or not exempting from the county tax levy which means the county would take over collecting tax for the library. D. Knauer wanted to be clear that she is not working to defund the library; from the Town perspective she is considering how to save the Town money. The Library Board discussed how the Town and Village would have to agree to exempt the library from the county tax levy, which would remove the regulations to follow the County Library Standards.

**c. MASD:** No report as no representative present. The next school representative will come from PEASD.

**d. FABLE:** No report as no member was present.

**e. Youth Services:** No report as M. Michaelik and A. Chase were both absent.

**f. Director:** No report as A. Chase was absent.

**Discussion Regarding Future Agenda Items:** R. Spurrell requested the Library's open hours to come up as a future agenda item. H. Lang requested discussion on why the Library purchases toys, games, and other Recreation Department-type items for checkout.

**Motion for closed session pursuant to WI State Statute §19.85(1)(f) for preliminary consideration of specific personnel problems which, if discussed in public, would be likely to have a substantial adverse effect upon the reputation of any person referred to, as related to staff duties/performance and policy adherence:** Motion by M. Rice to go into closed session. Second by H. Lang.

**Roll Call Vote:** Motion passed 5-1 to go into closed session.

M. Rice: yes

M. Faretta: yes

R. Spurrell: yes

B. Puza: yes

D. Knauer: no

H. Lang: yes

**Closed Session:** The Board went into Closed Session at 9:01pm.

**Motion to Reconvene into Open Session:** Motion by M. Rice to reconvene into Open Session. Second by M. Faretta. Motion passed (6-0). The Board returned to Open Session at 9:14pm.

**Adjournment:** Motion by M. Rice to adjourn. Second by M. Faretta. Motion carried unanimously (6-0). Meeting adjourned at 9:15pm.