

Bement Public Library District Board Meeting
July 21, 2026

Board President Mary Postlewait called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Library Director Donna Techau and Board Trustees Bill Gallagher, Jill Lawson, Cathy Thornhill, Jerry Watzlawick, Gail LeFever-Wright, and Kenneth Wright were present.

Gail LeFever-Wright made the motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Bill Gallagher seconded the motion, and all trustees voted aye.

There was no one from the public in attendance.

Old Business

Semiquincentennial Celebration: Daisy Crawford and Kids Club members handed out candy, pocket copies of the Constitution, and commemorative coins as they marched along the parade route in Bement on July 4th. More than 100 coins and pocket Constitutions were handed out that day.

Gene Schnierle will be presenting a program on the History of Protest, and Bill Gallagher will present a program "Letter to America" at the library. Dates will be provided on the website.

The summer programming has come to an end. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday attendance was good. Daisy Crawford handled most of the programming. Positive responses about the summer programming were given by the children who attended.

Library Director, Donna Techau, attended the IMLS250 conference that was held June 22-25 in Cincinnati, Ohio. There were 120 librarians in attendance, and 2 were from Illinois. One attendee was from the Marshall Islands. There was a lot of library sharing concerning ways of celebrating the 250th Anniversary of our country.

The writing for the following three policies-AI policy, trustee orientation and training, and staff onboarding is still in progress.

Staff member, Bruce Nessel, did some repair work on the weather stripping of the doors in the entryway to the library. By doing this, we will hopefully notice a difference in the entryway to our library. This is a necessary step of the continued energy efficiency work for the library.

Update on Securitas estimate and State Grant monies: Library Director Donna Techau informed the board members that the library did not receive the state security grant.

Appropriations/Levy update: The appropriations bill was published on July 1st, 2026 in the Bement Record Herald. The library received 2 certified copies of this for the County Clerk's offices. The board members will vote on the levy at our next meeting.

On-site LEAP training: provided free by IHLS. The library will be closing the afternoon of September 29th so staff members will be able to participate in this onsite free training.

Annual Director Evaluation: The completed annual evaluations were handed in by all of the board members at the July board meeting.

At 5:40 p.m., Kenneth Wright made a motion to adjourn to a closed session to discuss the Library Director's wage increase. Jerry Watzlawick seconded the motion, and all trustees voted aye.

Board members returned from closed session at 5:50 p.m.

Bill Gallagher made a motion to accept the Library Director's salary increase immediately and to make it retroactive to July 1st. The Director will also receive the cost of living increase on January 1, 2027. Jerry Watzlawick seconded the motion, and all trustees voted aye by a roll call vote.

New Business

Battery collection/recycle program: Director Techau took a class on battery recycling. Everything is paid for, and kits for this program were received in the mail. The staff will need training before it can be started sometime in September. Alkaline batteries and button batteries will be placed in boxes for recycling.

The 2025-2026 Annual Report for the Secretary's Audit of minutes and records was signed by Trustees Kenneth W. Wright and Gail LeFever-Wright, and then filed. A copy of the report was also kept by Jill Lawson, Board Secretary, and placed in the Board Secretary's files.

With no further business, Jerry Watzlawik made a motion to adjourn at 6:08 p.m. Jill Lawson seconded the motion, and all trustees voted aye.

The next board meeting is scheduled for September 15, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. at the library.

Jill Lawson, Board Secretary