

Bement Public Library District Board Meeting
May 19, 2026

Board President Mary Postlewait called the meeting to order at 5:58 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.

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

There was no one from the public in attendance.

Old Business

Raised beds were built by the Home School students in April. True Value in Monticello donated some filler cardboard for the beds, and volunteers filled them with purchased soil with the assistance of Joe Techau, and soil donated by Bill Gallagher. Vegetables and flowers have been planted by the Kids Club. The kids are excited about this project, and they check on the beds to see how they are doing.

SERVPRO cleaned the vents in the library. SERVPRO suggested that the library should schedule this type of cleaning about every 5 years to prevent build up in the vents.

Episodes of the American Revolution by Ken Burns will be shown at 5:00 p.m. weekly at the library starting in May. Free light snacks will be provided. Staff member, Daisy Crawford, will march in Bement's July 4th parade with kids and hand out candy and pocket Constitutions, and a commemorative coin. The Kids Club participants will be completing a craft about our country's semiquincentennial celebration.

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

The IMLS250 Conference will be held the third week in June in Cincinnati, Ohio. Library Director Donna Techau was invited all-expenses-paid, and will be attending.

Library Director Techau is still awaiting an estimate from Design Glass and Aluminum for fixing the atrium (east doors) of the library. As they have been slow to respond, staff member, Bruce Nesbitt, will place weather stripping around the doors. This is a necessary step of the continued consultation on energy efficiency for the library.

Update on Securitas estimate and State Grant monies: Library Director Donna Techau is awaiting word about implementing Securitas video surveillance if we receive the state grant.

New Business

Appropriations/Levy document review: Library Director Techau stated that this will be completed by the next meeting in June. Next steps are publication in a local paper and then proceed to the county clerk's office.

Kanopy: Launch date is June 1st. Inhouse instruction will be provided for cardholders.

Insurance: Bell Insurance informed Director Techau that insurance prices are rising by \$2021.00 annually.

Staff Change: Katie Levitt resigned. Payout and other necessary paperwork has been completed by Library Director Techau. Daisy Crawford will be in charge of summer programming now. A small raise was offered for the extra work she's putting in.

Vote on nonresident card status: A discussion concerning nonresident card status took place. Following the discussion, a motion was made by Jerry Watzlawick and seconded by Jill Lawson to continue our policy to not allow non-residents cards. All trustees voted aye.

Solar consultation with Sangamon Solar: Library Director Donna Techau met with Sangamon Solar to begin discussions of solar energy at the library. Sangamon Solar is willing to give a presentation to the board. Since the library presently has a signed 3 year fixed rate agreement with AlliPower, we are just exploring this option right now.

Other new business: Trustee Gail LeFever-Wright brought up that by participating in Library Crawls, she observed that many libraries have coffee bars available to their patrons throughout the day. The Senior Coffee Hour members help support their Tuesday morning meetings. The library will purchase a Keurig coffee maker, and bottled water could be used in its reservoir. The coffee bar could be placed by Bruce Nesbitt's office, and a donation box could be placed there to help with the purchase of coffee, K-cups, creamers, and cups with lids. However, the library's No- food or drink policy would need to be amended in order to provide the coffee bar to our patrons. Following the discussion, a motion was made by Kenneth Wright to amend the No-food or drink policy to allow for a coffee bar in the library. It was seconded by Bill Gallagher, and the vote passed unanimously.

With no further business, Bill Gallagher made a motion to adjourn at 6:36 p.m. Jerry Watzlawick seconded the motion, and all trustees voted aye.

The next board meeting is scheduled for June 16th at 5:30 p.m. at the library.

Jill Lawson, Board Secretary