

Jasper Municipal Library Board Meeting  
October 21, 2025  
Held at  
Carolyn Stewart Public Library

**M I N U T E S**

*Call to Order.* With a quorum present, the quarterly meeting of the Jasper Municipal Library Board was called to order by Chair Sally Moore at 5:00 p.m. The following members were present: Sally Moore, Chair; Les Price, Vice Chair; Amy Fowler, Secretary; Anne Brown; Greg Hutchins; Ben Bumpus, and Carolyn Stewart. Others present: Kate Huddleston, Stones River Regional Director, Earl Jones, former Jasper Fire Chief; Chris Van Hammersveld, FOL, and Ann Gray, Director of CSPL.

*Reading of the Minutes of the Previous Meetings.* A motion was made by Les Price to approve the minutes as read of the regularly-scheduled meeting of July. Second by Carolyn Stewart. All voted aye. The meeting agenda and approved minutes will be posted on our website at <http://www.jasper-tn.com> in keeping with openness and transparency of the library board in accordance with state law.

*Public Comment.* There was no one present to make any public comments.

*New Business. Public Library Survey.* Ann Gray reported on the library's completion of the annual Public Library Survey (PLS) of our local data from 2024-2025 fiscal year in September. Our local report merges with other library reports across our regional, across the state and is submitted to the federal government. The demographics of library patrons is captured in order for public libraries to continue providing needed library services, resources, and programming. From a community development perspective, it is this data that provides necessary support- and justification for grant requests – to help public libraries stay relevant in their communities. Great information is collected and it is essential information for us to use.

*Library Trustee's Workshop, Crossville (September 25, 2025).* Jasper's new library board was represented at the regional library workshop by Sally Moore and Anne Brown. They reported on the training as well as how inspired they were by Art Circle Library. It is a large public facility in a mid-size city and the city has combined art-based organizations with the library. Kate Huddleston commented that the library staff is at least 50 people. Appreciation was extended to Sally and Anne for their participation and commitment.

*Emergency Plan.* Mr. Earl Jones presented the new Emergency Response Plan for the library. He developed this collaborative plan in conjunction with library staff and a great deal was learned in the process. - Carolyn Stewart Public Library (CSPL) has never had its own

emergency response plan. Never. This new plan outlines what the library staff needs to do in case of any emergency: physical, medical, and/or environmental to stabilize life-threatening situations. Mr. Jones, former Fire Chief of Jasper, has an extensive resume with numerous certificates in industrial security, fire department procedures, emergency management, etc. It is because of his vast knowledge and experience that this plan has been “simplified” to the point of easy to-read – and comprehend - step-by-step actions. This document is meant to guide us through hardship. A motion was made by Sally Moore to accept the plan as presented. Second by Amy Fowler. All voted aye. The board expressed their appreciation to Mr. Jones for developing this much needed plan.

Financial Report: The Marion County Commission past a resolution in June to provide equal county funding to all three libraries in the amount of \$94,200 each. However, this week, the Marion County Commission’s October agenda was posted and there is a new resolution to amend the county library funding. While we don’t know what this means exactly, we know that it most likely means reduced financial support. Ann Gray encouraged the board members to reach out to Jasper County Commissioners and encourage them to continue to fund this library – not only the largest library in the county but the library that provides services to the majority of people in unincorporated Marion County. Until this is resolved, the library’s 2025-2026 FY budget remains unknown.

Reports. *Stones River Regional Director* Kate Huddleston presented information for the last quarter of the calendar year. It is attached to and made part of these minutes.

*CSPL Director* Ann Gray provided this past quarter’s monthly collections report to the board. The reports document the activity of library patrons as well as the educational and community programs that we offer on a monthly basis. In addition, Ann Gray shared the library’s Collection Development report for 2025. These are new resources by author and title that are added each month to the overall library collection. As a new library board, we are fortunate to begin with a clean slate. Our new collection information will be kept in a green notebook and be readily available to everyone. While TCA does not mandate public libraries to share their collection information with their boards, we want to be fully transparent so that the board is aware of how the library collection continually develops.

*Friends of the Library (FOL) President* Chris Van Hammersveld was present to provide a brief report on our new book club that is held monthly at CSPL, the third Tuesday at 10:00. Everyone is welcome to attend. Our book club has been meeting since May and averages eight (8) people per meeting. And there are several “new” library patrons in this group. The FOL has received a grant from the American Library Association to purchase 3 sets of 10 books for local library book clubs. Library book clubs want to encourage readers to use the local library but library’s generally have only one book. While they can interlibrary loan one or two more, it isn’t enough for a full book club. These sets of books will be kept here for the

Friends. Last but not least, the Friends of the Library will hold the Fall Book Sale at Carolyn Stewart on Friday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, 4:00-7:00 and Saturday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, 9:00-2:00. Please mark your calendar, attend, and invite others to come and support this event.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:55.