

APPROVED

Cromaine District Library  
Regular Board Meeting  
Thursday August 21, 2025

Trustees Present: Bill Bolin, Jeannine Gogoleski, Becky Basley, Nancy Rosso, Dawn Smith, Kim Armstrong

Members Absent: Holly Naylor

Staff Present : Liz Welch, Donna Janke, Sarah Neidert, Darlene Randolph

Public Present : Kim Pacitto, Jeri Spamer, Terrence Armstrong, Noreen Weitkey, Rita Branch, Stephanie Booth, Julie Ohashi, Glenn Gogoleski, Elizabeth Gauthier

<b>I.</b>	President Bolin called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.	
<b>II.</b>	<b>Pledge of Allegiance</b>	Pledge of Allegiance
<b>III.</b>	<b>Roll Call</b> President Bolin took roll call.  Present: Jeannine Gogoleski, Becky Basley, Nancy Rosso, Dawn Smith, Kim Armstrong Absent: Holly Naylor	Roll Call
<b>IV.</b>	<b>Approval of Agenda</b> Vice President Gogoleski requested adding Audio/Visual as <b>Item G to VII.</b> <b>Discussion/Decision</b> Secretary Rosso moved to approve the amended agenda, seconded by Trustee Smith. Ayes: All Nayes: None Motion passed.	Approval of Agenda
<b>V.</b>	<b>Approval of Consent Agenda</b> Treasurer Basley moved to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Vice President Gogoleski. Ayes: All Nayes: None Motion passed.	Approval of Consent Agenda

	<p>A. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes 6/19/25, Board meeting 7/17/25- cancelled</p> <p>B. Acknowledge receipt of the May Financial Reports and payment of May invoices totaling <u>\$136,266.08</u> and payroll obligations totaling <u>\$ 105,257.66</u></p> <p>C. Acknowledge receipt of the June Financial Reports and payment of June invoices totaling \$104,255.00 and payroll obligations totaling \$102,745.06.</p> <p>D. Committee Reports</p> <table> <tr> <td>Community Relations &amp; Strategic Planning</td> <td>July-cancelled/Aug. 13</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Personnel</td> <td>July/Aug. cancelled</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Finance</td> <td>July cancelled/ Aug.11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ad-Hoc/Landscaping</td> <td>Aug. 04</td> </tr> </table> <p>President Bolin addressed and reminded the public of the rules of the “Call to the Public” portion of the board meeting.</p>	Community Relations & Strategic Planning	July-cancelled/Aug. 13	Personnel	July/Aug. cancelled	Finance	July cancelled/ Aug.11	Ad-Hoc/Landscaping	Aug. 04	
Community Relations & Strategic Planning	July-cancelled/Aug. 13									
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VI.	<p><b>Library Directors Report</b></p> <p>Director Neidert introduced Donna Janke, Circulation Manager. Donna presented a quick update on the Circulation Department. They had a successful and busy summer. The Youth Department partnered with the schools, sending a letter encouraging families to sign up for library cards through a letter shared by HCS Superintendent Hughes in late July and August. September is National Library Card signup month, and Donna encouraged everyone to get a card, if they have not already.</p> <p>TLN is in the process of adding an automated sorting system, (RFID). This will eliminate paper transfer slips when requesting items from another library. This system will make it more accurate and move in a more- timely manner. Eventually Cromaine will need extra equipment to meet this system. Donna stated, “The TLN staff is great to work with.”</p> <p>Director Neidert presented a short video demonstrating how a sorting system using RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) would work at the TLN sorting center. She said there is no extra cost for this, but will need to invest in some equipment in the future.</p> <p>The basement foundation repairs at the Music Hall will be September 4<sup>th</sup> &amp; 5<sup>th</sup>. The HCS Foundation, which owns the Hall, will be paying for the repairs. The United Way of Livingston County Day of Caring cleaning at the Music Hall was a great success, many thanks to Liz Welch, Community Engagement</p>	Library Directors Report								

	<p>Manager, for signing the Hall up as volunteer location, and especially to all the volunteers from Hartland Insurance and Design for Eyes, who worked so hard to shine the hall.</p> <p>The Hartland Living app is now available in your app store of choice. It is very informative.</p> <p>The Livingston County Public Libraries Trustees &amp; Directors Dinner is Wednesday Oct 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 pm at the Fowlerville District Library. Trustees interested need to RSVP to Director Neidert by September 17<sup>th</sup>.</p> <p>The Friends of Cromaine Fall Book Sale is scheduled near the end of September. The Youth and Adult summer reading programs were impressive this year with 900 registered. Out of those registered there were 207 adults and 681 children and teens. The tracking was actually tracked by minutes read, not books read. This was tracked through the app called “Beanstack.”</p> <p>Community Relations is about to mail out our quarterly postcard to patrons. This will highlight new digital resources – The Wall Street Journal, USA Today papers, including the Livingston Daily are now available for free with a library card, through the website. We are excited about these new resources for our patrons.</p> <p>Our Homebound Program was launched in July. Thanks to our Adult Services staff for putting this together.</p> <p>Treasurer Basley commended Director Neidert and staff for the new digital access. She said, “This is a wonderful addition to patrons.”</p>	
<b>VII.</b>	<p><b>Discussion/Decision Items</b></p> <p><b>A. Strategic Plan Review</b></p> <p>Liz Welch, Community Engagement Manager, addressed the board with updates on our Strategic Plan.</p> <p>The server room upgrades have been going on for several months. The equipment was in desperate need of upgrades.</p> <p>Our homebound program is under way. Vice-President Rosso asked who should be contacted for that information? Liz informed her to contact the Adult Services Department.</p> <p>A new software tool, Savannah by Orangeboy, gathers information to better match patrons with marketing messages.</p>	Strategic Plan Review

	<p>A new lease contract for the Music Hall has been signed for three years. Liz explained plans for new branding of the Music Hall and ways to increase the benefits of the hall.</p> <p>The south lawn project renovation is fully funded. Once all is approved by the Township, there should be a timeline for next steps.</p> <p>Treasurer Basley said this is “beyond amazing,” the work that is going on is so fulfilling. She said the community will benefit from this.</p> <p>Vice-President Gogoleski agreed, saying “The Community should share the good news about what is happening at the Cromaine Library.”</p> <p><b>B. Review of Year-end statistics</b></p> <p>Director Neidert went over the full year-end statistics. This shows all four quarters. She noticed the e-material checkout is up 25.5% over the prior year, database use is up 55.5%, which includes Consumers Report, Ancestry.com and Comics Plus. This is good because the library pays for usage of those resources. What stood out the most to her was the virtual library visits (visits to cromaine.org) is up 129%. She credits the new website, which launched just one year ago in August, for those numbers.</p> <p>There was a decrease in program attendance for kids and teens. This could be due to the fact that some of the summer “camps” decreased from weeklong programs to daily programs.</p> <p>There was a good number of cardholders for our service population of 31%. Secretary Rosso asked if you see any trouble in this trend of numbers? Director Neidert says she does not.</p> <p>Treasurer Basley asked what was the exact type of item on the report that led to the increased usage statistics for e-materials? Director Neidert replied that it was mostly audiobooks, that Hoopla usage has gone through the roof.</p> <p><b>C. Outside Project Updates</b></p> <p>The preliminary site plans will be submitted next week to the Township Planning Commission. A date will be set for this to be on the Planning Commission schedule. When the date is set, Director Neidert will share it with all board members, who are invited to attend the Planning Commission meeting. Once approved, this will be followed by the construction phase of the project. We hope to go out to bid this fall. The township has been very helpful with the procedures of this project. Director Neidert is glad we chose the firm that we did to run this project. They are great to work with.</p>	<p>Year-end statistics</p> <p>Outside Project Updates</p>
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	<p>Cromaine submitted a grant proposal for a large (\$250,000) grant, which would enhance the outdoor project with additional gardens, outdoor musical instruments, and other items to encourage community use of the space especially focused on unstructured play for children.</p> <p>Secretary Rosso said the \$250,000.00 grant is something to be congratulated for. Director Neidert replied that it has not happened yet but we are very hopeful. Liz Welch added that this grant application was submitted in July and we should hear something in September.</p> <p><b>D. Discussion of Library Legal Representation</b></p> <p>Director Neidert reminded the board that we do have an agreement with our current legal representative, Foster, Swift, Collins &amp; Smith PC, but she needs to feel confident that this is what the board wants. She provided a list of firms that work with public libraries in Michigan.</p> <p>Vice-President Gogoleski recommends this to be sent back to the Personnel Committee for review and recommendation. Treasurer Basley indicated that the Finance committee might be consulted as well, as there is a cost for legal representation. Vice-President Gogoleski agreed that the Personnel committee should include a cost review.</p> <p>Secretary Rosso asked, in the interim, can we still use the current legal representative? Director Neidert indicated that is why she brought this item to the board. If we choose to change our relationship with Foster Swift Collins and Smith, we would need to do so in writing, after a vote of the full board.</p> <p><b>E. Discussion of Materials Reconsideration Appeal Process</b></p> <p>Vice-President Gogoleski said the appeal process in policy #3010 does not define a process for considering an appeal, and suggested it be sent back to committee for a clear definition regarding the appeal process.</p> <p>Trustee Smith agreed and needs the clarification of how, operational wise, this should be dealt with. Secretary Rosso questioned how many items and where they have been moved to. Director Neidert responded that she could share this with the board. She has not seen the appeal yet at this time, and wanted to share information based on what was appealed.</p> <p>Trustee Smith said that Director Neidert has made some of these changes due to these challenges and a patron is appealing them. We need to take this back to the committee and determine where it goes from that point.</p>	<p>Legal Representation</p> <p>Appeal Process</p>
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<p><b>F. Review Policies</b></p> <p>#7002-Personnel Policy &amp; Employee Handbook , Personnel</p> <p>Reviewed by members of the Personnel Committee, no changes</p> <p>#7003-Evaluation of Director and Library Staff, Personnel</p> <p>Reviewed by members of the Personnel Committee, no changes</p> <p>#7005-Compensation of Library Employees, Personnel</p> <p>Reviewed by members of the Personnel Committee, no changes</p> <p>#8004-Conduct of Library Board Meetings, Personnel</p> <p>Reviewed by members of the Personnel Committee, no changes</p> <p>Vice-President Gogoleski moved to approve the reviews of Policies #7002, #7003, #7005, #8004 and to leave all policies as written. Seconded by Trustee Dawn Smith.</p> <p>Secretary Rosso asked, if the committee did not meet, how did you review the policies? Director Neidert said she sent them for review by email, and received no question or comments. Secretary Rosso asked if the committee was in agreement that they should be considered reviewed with no changes? The committee members agreed.</p> <p>A roll call was taken.</p> <p>Ayes: Kim Armstrong, Dawn Smith, Becky Basley, Nancy Rosso, Bill Bolin, Jeannine Gogoleski</p> <p>Nayes: None                      Motion passed.</p> <p><b>G. Audio/Visual</b></p> <p>Vice-President Gogoleski believes it will be beneficial in the matter of recording these meetings.</p> <p>Director Neidert mentioned that starting next month's meeting, we can do a meeting by zoom and then go from there. She will get a stand for the standing mic to be set in the middle of the room for better quality on the audio. She would like direction from the board on how they want to proceed.</p> <p>President Bolin says this is wise and beneficial to recording meetings and having something permanently tangible.</p>	<p>Review Policies</p>
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	<p>Secretary Rosso asked what the cost would be. Director Neidert said approximately \$3500.00 for the system and mounted on top of the big screen tv. However, simply beginning to record with the meeting owl will be very low cost.</p> <p>Vice-President Gogoleski moved to approve audio/visual equipment to be purchased for board meetings. Seconded by Trustee Armstrong.</p> <p>Ayes: All Nayes: None      Motion passed.</p>	
<b>VIII.</b>	<p><b>Information/ Comments from Board</b></p> <p>President Bolin thanked Director Neidert and staff for all her hard work.</p> <p>Vice-President Gogoleski witnessed the scavenger hunt happening on the second-floor youth area and said it was neat to see the excitement from the children when they were presented with sticker prizes. She directed to the public that all of our policies are on line and nowhere does it state to remove, ban, or sequester books.</p> <p>President Bolin added that removing some language from policy #3010 was to make sure we are in compliance with our Constitution.</p> <p>Trustee Smith thanked Director Neidert for working through this very sensitive topic.</p> <p><b>Call to the Public-</b></p> <p><b>Those wishing to address the board are asked to fill out a form- if they want their comments reflected in the official board minutes, they are asked to summarize them here, to be included by the recording secretary using their own words.</b></p> <p>Noreen Weitkey spoke to the board.</p> <p>Stephanie Booth spoke to the board.</p> <p>Rita Branch spoke to the board.</p>	
<b>IX.</b>	<p>Julie Ohashi spoke to the board and submitted the following in writing: Floodgate members are parroting lies out in the community insisting that books weren't trying to be banned in this library. The fact is there has been an effort to</p>	

do so. Per [February's board minutes](#), it is clear that Bill Bolin is orchestrating the attempt to remove/restrict books via book challenges. According to the American Library Association (ALA), [book challenges](#) are “an attempt to remove or restrict materials, based upon the objections of a person or group, thereby restricting the access of others.” Bolin is quoted in those same minutes saying he “...wants to implement policies that restrict access to certain books...” Even Cromaine board members have said that, “Effectively, what this policy will do is 'ban books,’” as reflected in the [June board](#) minutes when the policy was adopted.

Due to strong resistance the initial discriminatory library policy that Bolin got from the lawyers who sit on Project 2025's advisory board ended up being scrapped, and another version was passed. What determines whether or not this new policy is legal, is how the library chooses to implement it. The [ACLU has warned](#) that it is crucial to keep a close eye on the current 220 book challenge outcome.

What's happening now is the board will hear appeals coming from that Floodgate church book challenger regarding the books that the Director, who holds a master's degree in library sciences, decided not to remove or label. This is not normal. Typically, library boards respect the expertise of their staff and existing procedures. Currently no policy exists on how this board will handle a challenged book because that is not the board's role. Additionally, this library has no definition of what's explicit sexual graphic content.

It seems the plan is to override the Director's educated decisions because as Bill Bolin stated in recent press, “this new policy is about protecting children and parental rights” which contradicts Cromaine's policy #3010 which states the “Responsibility for the reading material of children rests only with their parents or legal guardians. The library does not have the right to act in place of the parent “the ALA states that “Censorship by librarians of constitutionally protected speech, whether for protection or for any other reason, violates the First Amendment.”

Another lie circulating by Floodgate members is that "they are only removing pornographic material.” Fact is, there is no porn in the library. The currently challenged book topics range from parenting information to teen fiction. To follow are some titles of books included in the current 220 challenge: 'Fourteenth Amendment and the Fight for Equality' Really? Accurate history regarding civil rights!?- 'STEM' (which stands for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics), 'The Human Body Encyclopedia', a book titled 'Arts', 'Consent Conversations for Teens', etc. These are definitely NOT "porn"



X.	Just stop with spreading lies to your congregation that this library is grooming kids with books that sexualize children. Statistically, the chances are far higher that grooming and child sexual assault will take place in religious institutions.									
	<b>Upcoming Meeting Dates</b>									
	<table><tr><td>Sept. 04</td><td>Personnel Committee, in person 6:00 pm</td></tr><tr><td>Sept. 10</td><td>Community Relations Committee</td></tr><tr><td>Sept. 09</td><td>Finance Committee, 4:30 pm</td></tr><tr><td>Sept. 18</td><td>Board of Trustees, 7:00 pm</td></tr></table>	Sept. 04	Personnel Committee, in person 6:00 pm	Sept. 10	Community Relations Committee	Sept. 09	Finance Committee, 4:30 pm	Sept. 18	Board of Trustees, 7:00 pm	
	Sept. 04	Personnel Committee, in person 6:00 pm								
	Sept. 10	Community Relations Committee								
Sept. 09	Finance Committee, 4:30 pm									
Sept. 18	Board of Trustees, 7:00 pm									
Sept. 15	Ad-Hoc/Landscaping 4:30 pm (placeholder, if needed)									
XI.	<b>Agenda Items for Next Meeting:</b> A. Review Board By-laws B. Discussion of Library Legal Representation (Personnel) C. Discussion of Material Reconsideration Appeal Process (Community Relations) D. Review Policies: #2010 – Use of Library Services (Community Relations) #2020 – Privacy of Library Records (Community Relations) #2030 – Public Conduct in the Library (Community Relations) #2031 – Children and Vulnerable Adults in the Library (Community Relations) #2032 – Library Violations and Appeal (Community Relations) #3020 – Internet Use (Community Relations)	Items for next meeting								
XII.	<b>Adjournment</b> Motion by Vice-President Gogoleski, seconded by Treasurer Basley. Adjourned at 8:10 pm.  Ayes : All  Naves: None          Motion Passed	Adjournment								

Nancy Rosso, SECRETARY  
Cromaine District Library Board

Darlene Randolph, Recording Secretary  
Cromaine District Library Board

Documents distributed to the Board for/at this meeting:

- Agenda for Board Meeting August 21, 2025
- Minutes of Regular/Budget Hearing Meeting June 19, 2025
- August 2025 Directors Report
- May/June 2025 Financial Reports
- Community Relations Minutes – Aug. 13th
- Finance Minutes – Aug. 11 -
- Ad-Hoc Minutes – Aug. 04 -
- Policy #7002, #7003, #7005, #8004
- Cromaine District Strategic Plan Update
- Monthly Activity Report, June/July 2025
- Year-end statistics report
- Letter of Library Legal Representation/list of law firms