

McMinn County Library Board  
1289 Ingleside Avenue  
Athens, Tennessee 37303

Board Meeting MINUTES  
MARCH 23, 2026 at 6:00 PM

Present – Chairman Tyler Forrest, Vice Chairman Mickey Blevins, Treasurer Tim Womac, Secretary Tyler Boyd, EGFPL Director Rebeckah (Becky) Coleman, Regional Library Director Liz Schreck, and MCLB members Jacob Burnette, Jan Dingess, Dwight Jordan, and Ashley Smith. MCLB member Kay Harper was absent.

- I. Call to Order, Establish Quorum, and Acknowledgments - Chairman Forrest welcomed everyone and established a quorum.
- II. Public Comments – None
- III. Approval of Minutes - Secretary Tyler Boyd presented the Minutes from the February 9, 2026 meeting. Board member Ashley Smith made the motion to accept the Minutes. Board member Jacob Burnette seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- IV. Investments Report – Jordan Curtis from Simmons Bank briefly reviewed the history of the long-term investment account and its sources of income, including the Gussie Fisher Trust, and discussed its increased balance and diversity over the previous several years. He noted that Simmons Bank had approved the use of Microsoft Copilot, an AI (artificial intelligence) tool that prepared the report. Curtis summarized the report, including quarter to date statistics. Board member Jacob Burnette, Chairman Tyler Forrest, and Treasurer Tim Womac also asked questions and discussed the report.
- V. Treasurer’s Report – Treasurer Tim Womac reported that he had already picked up the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter checks from the Athens City Council and McMinn County Commission. He noted that the Calhoun and Englewood Libraries should have spent 75% of their funds by now, but reminded the Fisher Library to pace its spending due to the coming “summertime blues.” He compared income and expenses for January 2025 and January 2026, noting that income for both months were very similar and that expenses were higher in 2025 due to the audit, but payroll was lower compared to 2025. 2026 also had \$16,000 in Tech Grant spending. Comparing February 2025 to February 2026, he noted that 2025 was a “quiet month income wise” and that payroll was higher for 2026.

Womac also reported that the Fisher Library’s checking account did not have sufficient funds to cover the March 20 payroll. An expected reimbursement of approx. \$8,000 from TSLA for a grant was late. To make payroll on time, the MCLB

Executive Committee voted to move \$25,000 from the Long-Term Investment Account to the Checking Account. Fisher Library Director Becky Coleman acknowledged the error in anticipating a sufficient balance to cover the payroll due to the expected reimbursement that was late. Director Coleman and various board members asked questions and discussed ways to prevent a similar incident from occurring again and ways to replenish the funds withdrawn from the Long-Term Investment Account. Chairman Forrest thanked Coleman for her quick actions in rectifying this problem and making sure payroll was made on time and that the library was never “in the red.”

## VI. Library Reports

- i. Calhoun – Calhoun Library Director Lynette Rodgers reported that the Polar Plunge event was cancelled due to construction. She noted that preparations for the Summer Reading Program were almost complete and that a River Walk event will take place in April. A “How to Use Libby” program is also in the works. She also reported that the library will be hosting Linda and Jeff Long for a beekeeping program.
- ii. E.G. Fisher – Fisher Library Director Becky Coleman reported on several spring break events, including a teen lock-in. She noted that they subscribed to fold3.com (military records research) for a one month trial with the possibility of a discounted annual subscription. She reported on the library’s new local history and genealogy group on Facebook and shared library statistics for January 1 through March 22.
- iii. E.G. Fisher Friends of the Library – Friends of the Library President Bo Perkinson distributed a copy of his report. He discussed recent activities, including previous and upcoming Noon Book Club Discussions. He noted that the Annual Used Book Sale will be held from June 18 – June 21 at the McMinn County High School library. He reported that the Friends reimbursed the Fisher Library for a WiFi Extender/Booster in the amount of \$2,423.40 and that the Friends are working on membership expansion.
- iv. Englewood – Board member Jan Dingess reported that the library had 187 patrons in February, with 164 PC users.
- v. Etowah – In the absence of board member Kay Harper, Treasurer Tim Womac reported that library director Briana Pagdon left to become the library director at Tennessee Wesleyan University. Womac noted that he and Etowah City Manager Russ Blair were conducting the search for a new library director.
- vi. Regional Library – Regional Director Liz Schreck discussed several upcoming training opportunities, including the “Emerging Leadership” series. She noted

the Tech Grant spending deadline of April 20 and that the TOP Grant application window and budget requests were upcoming. She reported on the upcoming TLA (Tennessee Library Association) Conference in April. She presented a Trusteeship Training Certificate for board member Dwight Jordan and noted recent changes to the training modules. She discussed READS statistics. She also noted that digital circulation was increasing, which means libraries will have to pay for the increasingly expensive rights for more digital material and plan for that in their budgets and note it in requests to funding bodies. Various board members asked questions and discussed this with Schreck.

## VII. Old Business

- i. MCLB Book Order/Disposition Reports - Chairman Forrest reported that they are available.
- ii. MCLB Nominating Committee – Vice Chairman Mickey Blevins noted that the previous few years saw changes in board members with the same officers, but said that will change this year. He reported that the Athens City Council would soon be voting to reappoint board member Jacob Burnette to a full-three year term beginning in July 2026 after Burnette filled the seat vacated by former board member John Duggan, whose term began in July 2023. Blevins reported that the committee would be presenting a different slate of officers (different from the incumbent officers) at the May meeting.
- iii. MCLB FY26 Capital Budget Request Update – Fisher Library Director Becky Coleman shared quotes from two fire alarm system companies, Vector (our current system) and Assured Alarms. Vector’s quote was much more detailed and comprehensive. The total of the three components of Vector’s quote added up to \$49,216.25. She noted that they had \$19,400 in capital funds from the City Council and \$1,000 from the County Commission and that the funds request letter from the County Commission has been prepared. Various board members asked questions and discussed. Chairman Forrest noted that such a quote was not unusual for a building of this size. He recommended moving forward with Vector, even though the County Commission has yet to allocate funds, due to the importance of an updated security and fire alarm system.

Board member Jacob Burnette made a motion to move forward with Vector. Board member Jan Dingess seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Chairman Forrest asked Director Coleman to call Vector the next day and get a timeline and request a reduction in the quote.

VIII. New Business

- i. MCLB May Meeting Date Change – After discussing alternative dates, the board agreed to hold the May meeting on Tuesday May 26 at 6:00 PM.
- ii. EGFPL FY27 Budget/Capital Request Update – Fisher Library Director Becky Coleman reported that the funds request has been submitted to the City Council and that the funds request from the County Commission is being prepared and will be submitted by the April 10 deadline. She noted that ADA compliant doors will be part of the next capital funds request.

Chairman Forrest reminded the board members to complete their Trusteeship Training, and that the next board meeting will be on Monday May 26, 2026 at 6:00 PM.

Chairman Forrest adjourned the meeting at 7:22 PM.